



# HALL GREEN SCHOOL

## SEX EDUCATION AND RELATIONSHIPS POLICY June 2017

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| <b>Adopted:</b>             | 26 June 2017   |
| <b>Next Review:</b>         | 26 June 2020   |
| <b>Governing Committee:</b> | Pastoral and Curriculum Committee  |
| <b>Responsibility:</b>      | Mr D Adams - Headteacher<br>Mrs M Shellis - Chair of Pastoral & Curriculum Committee |

**Date of Policy: May 2010 (Reviewed May 2014; June 2017)**

## **Introduction**

Hall Green School is a place where relationships are based on trust and mutual respect. There is a powerful sense of community and mutual support.

This policy was developed in response to Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfES 2000, the National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and National Healthy Schools Programme.

## **What Is Sex and Relationship Education?**

SRE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

## **Principles and Values**

In addition, Hall Green School believes that SRE should:

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life.
- Be an entitlement for all young people.
- Be set within this wider school context and supports family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness. Family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. nuclear family. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of different approaches.
- Encourage students and teachers to share and respect each other's views. We are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure. The important values are love, respect and care for each other.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- Recognise that parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents and students, consulting them about the content of programmes.
- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with health professionals, social workers, peer educators and other mentors or advisers.

Sex and Relationship Education in this school has three main elements:

### Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices;
- learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships, and marriage;
- learning about the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making;
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.

### Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict;
- empower students with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances (both as exploited or exploiter).

### Knowledge and Understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services;
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay;
- the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

#### **a. Aims of the SRE Programme**

The aim of SRE is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our cross curricular SRE programme aims to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.
- communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues.

- develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity.
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity.
- understand the reasons for having protected sex.
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary.
- know the law which applies to sexual relationships.

**b. Values our school seeks to promote as a moral framework in which to teach**

Our school teaches SRE within the following moral and values framework engendering:

- self- respect
- respect and tolerance towards others who may have different backgrounds, cultures, feelings, views and sexuality
- an awareness of the way others feel
- mutual support and co-operation
- honesty and openness
- the acceptance of the responsibility for and the consequences of personal actions
- the right of people to hold their own views within the boundaries of respect for the rights of others
- the right not to be abused by or taken advantage of by other people
- the right to accurate information about sex and relationship issues

**c. Equal Opportunities Statement**

We will strive to ensure that all pupils are treated fairly and that there is no discrimination or bullying on the grounds of gender, race, religion, colour, language, culture, social circumstances, appearance, sexuality, ability or disability etc.

## The SRE Programme

### a. Programme Content

Hall Green School specifically delivers Sex and Relationship Education through, RE and Science lessons in both Key Stages, The Science National Curriculum, taught in every year, is delivered by specialist staff in the science department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction, although the importance of relationships is not forgotten. We also deliver sessions focusing on specific areas of SRE as part of dedicated PSHE days. We often invite outside speakers to deliver some of our PSHE sessions. Hall Green School has a code of practice for using outside speakers to support the delivery of PSHE:

- speakers are invited into school because of the particular expertise or contribution that they are able to make;
- all input to PSHE sessions are part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance
- all speakers are supervised/supported by a member of staff at all times;
- the input of speakers is monitored and evaluated by staff and pupils. This evaluation informs future planning.

The following topics are covered in dedicated PSHE days:

Year 7:

- Healthy relationships
- Child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)

Year 8:

- Healthy relationships (Loudmouth theatre company)

Year 9:

- CSE (Loudmouth theatre company)
- Sexually transmitted illnesses (STI)
- Contraception
- FGM

Year 10:

- STI (Loudmouth Theatre Company)
- CSE (Spurgeons Children's Charity)

These sessions are generally delivered in single sex groups.

### b. Resources

SRE resources are chosen and checked for age appropriateness and accuracy, for being up to date and inclusive, and to ensure that they provide positive, healthy and unbiased messages and promote positive values.

Any SRE lesson may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.

## **Inclusion**

### Ethnic and Cultural Groups

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups.

### Students with Special Needs

We will ensure that all young people receive sex and relationship education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our students, taking specialist advice where necessary.

### Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them.

## **Right of Withdrawal of Students from Sex and Relationship Education**

The school will publish information about dates and topics to be covered as part of sex and relationship education in advance in the school newsletter and on the school website.

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons). We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. Parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents are welcome to review any SRE resources the school uses.

## **Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues**

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. Any disclosure made must be referred immediately to the Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection (Mrs P Evans). Teachers are not legally bound to inform parents or the head teacher of any disclosure unless the head teacher has specifically requested them to do so.

In a case where a teacher learns from an under 16 years old that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- The young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to parent/carer and if necessary to seek medical advice.
- Child protection issues will be considered, and referred if necessary to the teacher responsible for Child Protection under the school's procedures.
- The young person will be properly counselled about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services.

In any case where child protection procedures are followed, the teacher will ensure that the young person understands that if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first.

Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct in a one-to-one situation with an individual student, but in a classroom situation they must follow the school's confidentiality policy.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education**

It is the responsibility of the Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) to organise the monitoring and evaluation of the programme. The Governors Pastoral and Curriculum Committee is responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of the Sex and Relationship Education Policy.

Ofsted is required to evaluate and report on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students. This includes evaluating and commenting on the school's sex and relationship education policy, and on support and staff development, training and delivery.