



Isle of Wight
Education Federation

The Governing Board for the
Isle of Wight Education Federation

Sex and Relationships Policy

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Sex and Relationships Education: The Isle of Education Federation

Introduction

This policy is written in line with the Children and Social Work Bill 2017 which sets out that it is a requirement that all secondary schools in England teach relationships and sex education.

It is the federated colleges' belief that Sex and Relationships 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 is essential that all students are provided with appropriate education to prepare them for their future.

In addition the federated colleges believe that SRE should:

- Be sensitive to the needs of all students and able to offer them additional support in specific cases if it is required.
- Be an entitlement for all young people.
- Encourage students to share and respect each other's views. We are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- Recognise that parents/carers are key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents/carers 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.
- Be sensitive in the teaching of SRE to students from specific cultural groups and those with SEN.

The Colleges will:

- Ensure students understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.
- Set sex education within a broader base of self-esteem and responsibility for the consequences of one's actions.
- Ensure that students understand how to 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.
- Challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity.
- Support students in understanding the arguments for delaying sexual activity and for having protected sex.
- Provide the students sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and where they have one, their partner from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.
- Ensure that the focus within each year group is healthy relationships but that topics such as pornography may be discussed dependent upon the needs of the class.
- Ensure students are aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary.
- Know how the law applies to sexual relationships.
- Delivers Sex and Relationships Education through its PSHE/Social Studies Programme, Cultural Literacy/RnB programme and Science lessons at KS3 and KS4.

Delivery

- The Science National Curriculum is delivered by 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.
- The PSHE/Social Studies Programme and Science National Curriculum are taught in every year.
- Across the Federation the PSHE/Social Studies Curriculum is taught within tutor time as a support structure for students to feel confident and comfortable in as they will have built close relationships with this key member of staff throughout their time at College. Tier 1 Training has been delivered to a number of teaching staff by members of the Sexual Health Clinic at St. Mary's Hospital prior to this so they can further support colleagues in delivering key topics.

Right of Withdrawal of Students from Sex and Relationships Education

Some parents/carers 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 relationships 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/carers are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents/carers are welcome to review any SRE resources the college uses.

Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. Teachers are not legally bound to inform parents/carers or Headteacher of any disclosure unless the Headteacher has specifically requested them to do so.

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

- 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 college's procedures.
- The young person will be properly counselled about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services.

Monitoring

It is the responsibility of the Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour and Safety and Federated Lead for Behaviour and Safety to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PSHE/Social Studies, in the context of the overall school plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning.

The Governing Board for the Isle of Wight Education Federation are responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of the Sex and Relationships Education Policy.

This policy will apply to both Carisbrooke College and Medina College.