



**Campion School**

# **Life Skills Policy**

Dated: Nov 2016

Review: Nov 2018




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## Life Skills Policy

### Policy details

Date of policy: November 2016  
Date of next review: November 2018  
Review to involve: Andrew Morris (Assistant Head), Julie Gardner (Head of Religious Education and Life Skills [REAL]), Sarah Simms (Head of Science) and Governors.

Members of staff responsible for overseeing that this policy is implemented and regularly reviewed: Andrew Morris (Assistant Head)  
Julie Gardner (Head of REAL)  
Kirsten Smith (Head of Science)

Signature (Chair of Governors): 

Signature (Headteacher): 

Date: November 2016

## **Introduction – why we need a life skills policy<sup>1</sup>**

“Sex and relationship education is a lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about sex, sexuality, relationships and feelings” (*Sex Education Forum 1999*).

The 1996 Education Act consolidates all relevant previous legislation and states that all schools must provide an up-to-date policy that describes the content and organisation of Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) provided outside the National Curriculum Science Order. The DfES Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (2000) supports this legislation and recommends that all schools should have a relationships and sex education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the pupils.

Effective relationships and sex education is key in supporting young people through their physical, emotional and moral development, enabling them to make informed life choices confidently, and furthering their respect for themselves and others as they move through life.

Strong delivery of SRE and Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) by schools is known to be one of the main factors for reducing teenage pregnancy and improving sexual health (DfES 2006). Key features included; systematic delivery of SRE/PSHE in primary and secondary schools; a strong focus on achieving National Healthy School Status and the use of the DfES SRE Guidance (issued in 2000) as a driver for training and support in schools, including planned programmes of training for Governors.

## **Development and dissemination process**

This policy was formulated by a working party consisting of the Assistant Headteacher, REAL Education Co-ordinator and Science Co-ordinator.

The draft policy was circulated to staff and governors.

The policy was amended in response to the comments and recommendations that arose through the consultation and finally approved by the Governing Body.

The policy will be communicated to all relevant partner agencies and visitors. The policy is available to view on the school website. A hard copy of the policy will be held in the school office and is available for viewing.

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<sup>1</sup> Warwickshire County Council has agreed the use of “Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)” as the preferred term for SRE to show a commitment to the importance of healthy relationships within relationships and sex education in schools..

## **Relationship to other school policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Anti-bullying policy
- Safeguarding and child protection policy
- Drugs education policy
- Behaviour policy
- Drugs management and sanctions policy
- Equality and diversity policy
- Health and safety policy
- Special educational needs disability policy

## **Local and national guidance and priorities**

This policy has been developed from a draft local authority policy based on the following documents:

- Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (DfEE,2000)
- Quality Standards for Sex and Relationships Education (Warwickshire LEA 2002)
- Sex and Relationships Education for Primary Age Children (Sex Education Forum Fact Sheet, 2002)

### ***The Children Act 1989***

This places a duty on professionals to talk about relationships and sex with young people in order to help them acquire knowledge and information about their bodies, sex and sexual health and to develop relevant skills.

## **Our aims**

- To help support young people through spiritual, physical, emotional and moral development
- To deliver a quality relationships and sex education programme to pupils which is appropriate to their needs and meets national standards
- To work in partnership with parents, families and the wider community to promote positive relationships and provide effective support for young people.
- To deliver relationships and sex education through a whole-school approach to life skills Education
- To support staff to work effectively with young people on all personal relationship and sexual health issues.

## **Our objectives and desired outcomes**

In order to achieve the aims above, we will work towards the following objectives:

- Pupils are provided with accurate information
- Young people are taught about human sexuality in a way that encourages them to mature and respect themselves and others
- Children and young people are informed about relationships, love, care and the responsibilities of parenthood

- Young people are provided with information about different types of contraception, safer sex and how they can access information from local sources of advice and treatment
- Young people are supported to understand how the law applies to sexual relationships

### **Desired outcomes**

- Pupils demonstrate confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- Young people make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives
- Pupils feel prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- Young people feel informed and supported through the emotional and physical changes of puberty
- Children's on-going emotional and physical development is supported through their transition year before moving to secondary school
- Young people develop positive values and a moral framework to guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour
- The incidence of teenage conceptions is reduced
- The incidence of sexually transmitted infections is reduced
- Young people have the skills to avoid being pressured into risk-taking behaviours

### **Staffing and staff development**

During induction to our school, staff will be encouraged to gain a good understanding of the relationships and sex education policy and other related policies.

Teachers are provided with training as required to support their delivery of RSE and extend their confidence in doing so. The training available is kept in the CPD file and training needs are identified for individual staff through the appraisal system. The personal attitudes and beliefs of teachers will not influence their delivery of the RSE curriculum within the REAL Education framework. Staff who attend training are given time at a staff meeting or INSET to disseminate learning.

### **Relationships and sex education curriculum**

*“SRE is lifelong learning about physical, emotional and moral development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity...”*

*(DFEE 2000)*

The sex education elements of the National Curriculum Science Order are mandatory for all pupils of primary and secondary school age. These cover anatomy, puberty, biological aspects of sexual reproduction and use of hormones to control and promote fertility.

Secondary schools are required to provide an SRE programme which includes (as minimum) information about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS.

Comprehensive Relationships and Sex Education has been made compulsory through the statutory PSHE Education curriculum.

## **Teaching strategies promoted by the school**

### **Ground rules**

Teachers develop a set of ground rules to create a safe environment in which no-one feels embarrassed or anxious about unintended or unexpected questions or comments from pupils. Examples of ground rules the school promote include:

- No-one will have to answer a personal question
- No-one will be forced to take part in a discussion
- Only the correct names for body parts will be used
- Meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way

### **Distancing Techniques**

Teachers will avoid embarrassment and protect pupils' privacy by always depersonalising discussions. For example, role play will be used to help pupils 'act out' situations about fictitious characters. Case studies with invented characters, appropriate videos and visits to theatre-in-education groups will all help pupils discuss sensitive issues and develop their decision-making skills in a safe environment.

### **Dealing with questions**

Teachers will establish clear parameters of what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole class setting. Below are guidelines the school encourages:

- If a question is too personal, the teacher will remind the pupil of the ground rules. If the pupil needs further support, the teacher can refer her or him to the appropriate person, such as a school counsellor, school nurse, helpline, or an outside agency or service
- If a teacher doesn't know the answer to a question, the teacher will acknowledge this, and suggest that the pupil or teacher or both together research the question
- If a question is too explicit, feels too old for a pupil, is inappropriate for the whole class, or raises concerns about sexual abuse, the teacher will acknowledge it and promise to attend to it later on an individual basis. To maintain trust and respect the teacher must remember to talk with the pupil later and if concerned that a pupil is at risk of sexual abuse, they will follow the school's safeguarding and child protection procedures.

## **How the school will respond to sensitive issues** (see also 'Confidentiality and handling disclosures' below)

### **Puberty**

Relationships and sex education is established within a context of life skills education, so as pupils reach puberty they will know and understand that they will change and develop, and will have confidence in managing the physical and emotional changes.

### **Menstruation**

The onset of menstruation can be alarming for girls if they are not prepared. As with puberty, the school programme of RSE will include preparation for menstruation and information for both girls and boys. The school will also make adequate and sensitive preparation to help girls cope with menstruation and with requests for sanitary protection.

### **Contraception**

In line with national and local government guidance, trained staff, such as the school nurse, will give young people full information about different types of contraception, including emergency contraception and their effectiveness. Trained staff will also give pupils – individually and as a class – additional information and guidance on where they can obtain confidential advice, counselling and, where necessary, treatment.

### Abortion

When abortion is covered within a programme, the school will offer young people the opportunity to explore the dilemmas, enable them to know and understand about abortion, and develop the communication skills to discuss it with parents and health professionals.

### Safer sex, HIV/AIDS and STIs

The emphasis on relationship and sex education will be on prevention of infection, through delaying sexual activity and teaching the reasons for safer sex. Young people will also be given appropriate information on diagnosis and treatment.

Strategies for teaching about HIV/AIDS and STIs will include:

- Helping pupils clarify their knowledge of HIV/AIDS and STIs
- Teaching them assertiveness skills for negotiating relationships
- Enabling them to become effective users of services that help prevent/treat STIs and HIV

### Pregnant school girls and school-aged parents

When a schoolgirl discloses that she is pregnant, the school will identify a key member of staff to co-ordinate education and support for the pregnant schoolgirl. Once parental consent has been agreed, the identified staff member will inform the County Teacher Co-ordinator for School-Age Parents, who co-ordinates education and support for pregnant schoolgirls and school age parents across Warwickshire.

A meeting will take place between the student, her parents/carers, the designated teacher and an Inclusion teacher from the Early Intervention Service, teaching & Learning (EIS). A learning timetable will be developed, taking into account future exams, work experience opportunities and other educational commitments and opportunities. Additional holistic support needs will be identified and referrals made to appropriate support agencies, for example, Children's Centres, housing and counselling services.

The designated teacher will discuss the level of confidentiality within the school and determine who may need to be informed. If there are child protection concerns identified, the designated teacher for the student will inform the schools designated safeguarding lead or a deputy safeguarding lead. For those students in public care, the designated teacher for Looked-After Children will determine who may need to be informed. If child protection concerns are identified, the designated teacher for the student will inform the designated teacher for Child Protection. For those students in public care, the designated teacher for Looked-After Children will be included in discussions. For those students on the Special Educational Needs Register, the Special Education Needs Co-ordinator will be included in the discussions and for those with statements or Educational Health Care Plans, the LA Officer for Education Health Care Plans will be consulted.

The designated teacher will ensure that all associated non-attendance (for medical check-ups and antenatal visits) is properly authorised and seek advice from the School Health Service or Attendance Compliance and Enforcement (ACE) team, as appropriate. The designated teacher will undertake the necessary risk assessments, using the model for pregnant staff members as guidance.

The pregnant pupil will remain in school with support from the EIS, unless medical needs dictate a home support package. Post birth, following an acceptable six-week medical check, a plan will be formulated with appropriate professionals to reintegrate the girl into full-time education. The designated teacher will ensure that the school age mother has received information about the importance of using contraception to prevent a second pregnancy from an appropriate health professional. EIS will continue to support pastorally until the student leaves school by introducing local support groups for young parents and referring them for careers guidance.

Schools should acknowledge the additional needs that school age fathers or fathers-to-be may have, and offer the same support, guidance and advice that they provide to pregnant schoolgirls, signposting to local services if necessary. When the relationship between the school age father and mother continues and the father wants to be involved, the designated teacher should ensure he is supported to attend antenatal and postnatal appointments, the birth itself and other necessary appointments, authorising absence appropriately. With the school age mother's approval, he may also be invited to attend pre and post birth meetings between the school, other professionals and the young woman.

### **Partnerships**

The school liaises closely with parents to reassure them of the content of the RSE programme, the context within which it is taught, and to support them in their teaching of RSE ensuring they feel confident engaging in discussions about the subject with their children.

The school will help support parents in:

- Helping their children learn the correct names of the body parts
- Talking with their children about feelings and relationships
- Answering questions about growing up, having babies, feeling sexual attraction, sex, contraception, relationships and sexual health
- The school will also consult parents regularly on the content of the relationships and sex education programme and invite parents to view RSE resources. The school will ensure that parents are informed of their legal right to remove their child from RSE sessions if they wish.
- Other agencies supporting the school's RSE curriculum are: health professionals, school nurse (where available), healthy living network, all of which are aware of this policy and work in-line with it. Outside visitors work within the framework outlined in the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Using Outside Visitors In School Policy.

### **Equality of opportunity**

All pupils regardless of their developing sexuality are entitled to an RSE curriculum which is relevant to their age group and sensitive to their needs. Teachers should be aware that for some children the RSE they receive at school will be the main, and sometimes only, source of sex education, particularly for children from some ethnic communities.

### **Special educational needs and learning difficulties**

The school will ensure that pupils with special educational needs (SEN) receive relationship and sex education.

Relationship and sex education will help all pupils to understand their physical and emotional development and enable them to make positive decisions in their lives. Some parents and carers of children with SEN may find it difficult to accept their children's developing sexuality. Some pupils will be more confused about what is acceptable public behaviour. These children will be



given more help to develop skills to reduce the risks of being abused and exploited, and to learn what sorts of behaviour are, and are not, acceptable.

Teachers may need to be more explicit and plan work in different ways in order to meet the individual needs of children with SEND or learning difficulties. The school will take care not to marginalise relationship and sex education. Students with SEND may require more support with understanding RSE than other students. Therefore, careful consideration will be made when deciding whether to withdraw students with SEND from RSE lessons to catch up on other subjects.

### **Confidentiality and handling disclosures**

Teachers, pupils and parents should be aware of the boundaries regarding confidentiality within the curriculum. Pupils must be made aware that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed and that they will be informed of all actions relating to their disclosure.

Health professionals are bound by their own codes of conduct to maintain confidentiality. When working within a classroom they are also bound by the school's policies. Outside the classroom situation, they can exercise their own professional judgement maintaining the pupil's best interests at all times.

Teachers cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality, but should ensure pupils are informed of sources of confidential help, e.g. school nurse, counsellor, GP, advice services. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive, not generally known, and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, the request will be honoured unless this is unavoidable in order for the teacher to fulfil their professional responsibilities. Only in the most exceptional circumstances will information be handled without parental knowledge. Where younger pupils are involved this will be grounds for serious concern and child protection issues should be addressed.

See the school's Confidentiality Policy and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy for further details.

### **Management and co-ordination**

Our school's relationships and sex education programme is co-ordinated as part of REAL Education by our REAL Education Co-ordinator, and as part of Science by our Science Co-ordinator. They are supported by Andrew Morris within his senior management role as pastoral Assistant Headteacher.

The staff responsible for child protection issues within school are the designated safeguarding leads. They are clear on all procedures and progressive steps in dealing with incidents should they arise. Andrew Morris Assistant Headteacher, is the senior leadership team member with responsibility for safeguarding and child protection. This policy will be reviewed every 2 years as part of the school's rolling programme of policy reviews. The review will be led by the REAL Co-ordinator and supported by governors and the senior management team. The effectiveness of the policy will be judged according to quality of the written, oral and observed evidence available to demonstrate that the objectives and desired outcomes stated above have been achieved.

### **Further information**

For further information about current initiatives and resources to support relationships and sex education agenda visit: [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/respectyourself](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/respectyourself) and [www.healthyschools.gov.uk](http://www.healthyschools.gov.uk).