

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL



Sex and Relationships Policy

APPROVED BY GOVERNORS

RESPONSIBLE PERSON – HEADTEACHER

1. Description of the School

Riverside School is an all age day Special School for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties and pupils with autistic spectrum disorders.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), forms an integral part of all pupils' education. All pupils have individual PSHE targets as part of their Personal Learning Plan. The programmes are devised and organised by class teachers with support from specialist colleagues as appropriate. The pupils are generally taught in small groups and often in ability groups. In the Secondary and 6th Form phases, sex and relationship education is included as part of the PSHE curriculum.

2. Policy Formation and Consultation Process

2.1 This policy has been written with due regard to the Education Act (1996) and DfEE Guidance July 2000 (DfEE 0116/2000) pertaining to the Learning and Skills Act (2000). The Act states that

'Special Schools have a particularly sensitive role to play. Children with learning difficulties are entitled to the same opportunity as other children to benefit from sex education. They may need more help than others in coping with the physical and emotional aspects of growing up; they may also need more help in learning what sorts of behaviour are and are not acceptable, and in being warned and prepared against unacceptable behaviour by adults. Schools should bear in mind that some parents may find it difficult to come to terms with the idea that their children will one day become sexually active.'

2.2 The school supports the 1996 Education Act and subsequent guidance that the programme should be set within a moral and culturally diverse framework. Our school community, and the society we belong to is diverse in belief and practice; we actively encourage a respect for different lifestyles and as with other areas of the curriculum, examine a range of religious, cultural and moral approaches to relevant issues. We encourage our pupils to understand and respect that diversity.

3. Aims and Objectives of the School Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Our aim is to provide a curriculum which is supportive of the whole school aims. Sex and Relationships Education will:

- Promote the spiritual, cultural, mental and social well-being of all students.
- Prepare students for the responsibilities of adult life.
- Develop students' awareness and understanding about the importance of strong relationships and being able to differentiate between different types of relationship

Our objectives are:

- To present information in a sensitive, balanced and objective manner.
- To present information in an accessible, visual, practical and suitably differentiated way.
- To help students make well informed decisions as they develop physically, emotionally and socially.
- To promote and develop self-esteem.
- To encourage the development of appropriate behaviour within their family and society.
- To teach within the legal framework of the Education Act 1996.

4. Organisation of School Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Sex and Relationships Education should be accessible to all pupils, irrespective of gender, ethnic background, physical and cognitive ability (see Equal Opportunities Policy). There may be issues of age, readiness and appropriateness as pupils move through the school.

Coordination of the sex and relationship aspects of PSHE will be the responsibility of the respective Phase Leaders.

5. Professional Development

Staff will have access to discussion sessions with Phase Leaders and the PSHE lead and additional support may be provided by Bromley Healthcare. The Assistant Head will identify relevant courses, either to attend or recommend to staff.

6. Specific Classroom Organisation

The pupils may be divided into small groups or be given individual sessions for Personal Social and Health Education sessions. All pupils work on understanding or experiencing the way their bodies function, looking after our bodies, safety and relationships (people in our lives). During Key Stage 3, pupils will start work on aspects of sex and relationships education and this will be continued in a more detailed PSHE programme in Key Stage 4 and a specific SRE programme in the 6th Form. Parents will be notified when pupils are starting this area of work.

7. Assessment, Recording and Reporting

The staff will review progress and evaluate the work at the end of each scheme of work or mid-term plan. This will follow the same pattern as in other curriculum policy documents. Evidence of the pupils' attainment and progress will be identified on Personal Learning Plans and Unique Profiles, school generated assessments, reviews and reports to parents.

8. Resources

The resources used will be selected to support our aims for Sex and Relationships Education and Equal Opportunities policies. Resources will be appropriate to age, maturity and special learning needs of our pupils. A library of PSHE, SRE and Health Education Resources is kept centrally in school. Parents will be invited to attend discussion forums at school as appropriate.

9. Specific and Sensitive Issues

Any pupil requiring advice regarding contraception should be referred to the appropriate team. Their wishes for confidentiality should be respected. The school would support pupils or staff infected or affected by HIV in consultation with Bromley Health Care and the School Nurse.

10. At Risk Issues

Students need to know that there are some issues which cannot remain confidential. The teacher would assess whether the young person is at risk and inform the Designated Safeguarding Teacher who would follow the Borough guidelines on safeguarding.

11. The Law and Sexual Activity

We will ensure that students are made aware of aspects of law that relate to sexual activity. Sex and relationships education will be taught in the context of celebrating diversity.

12. Working with Parents

A summary of the laws relating to sex and relationships education is available for parents at their request. We feel that successful sex and relationships education takes place when we work in partnership with parents. Parents may wish to remove their daughter or son from all or part of the programme. Procedures are explained in para. 16

13. Legal Obligations

Riverside School has decided to provide sex and relationships education where this is deemed appropriate, within the Personal, Social and Health Education for primary aged pupils and to fulfil our mandatory obligation to provide it for our secondary pupils. We are aware of the arrangements for Sex Education in the Education Act 1996 and the revised guidance (DfEE 0116/2000). We are aware of our responsibility to provide any parent with a copy of the Sex and Relationships Education Policy when requested. We will provide details of the content and organisation of the personal and social education curriculum for all ages. This will meet the requirements of the Education (School Information) regulations.

14. Information for Parents

If you want to withdraw your child from all or part of the school's Sex and Relationships Education Programme, the following procedures need to be followed:

Please write a letter to Steve Solomons, Headteacher outlining why you wish to withdraw your child. You will then be invited to school to discuss your views with the Head or Assistant Headteacher. If you still wish to withdraw your child, the school will inform you of alternative arrangements.

15. Procedures of Complaints

As a parent, you may wish to make a complaint about a specific aspect of the Sex and Relationships Education Programme. Please telephone or write to the teacher who was taking the lesson explaining the nature of your complaint. The class teacher will make a record of your complaint and speak to the coordinator for Sex and Relationships Education, a member of staff will contact you to help resolve the matter.