

THE CHERWELL SCHOOL

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

This policy is informed by the DfE's Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (July 2000). This is the most recent Government guidance on this issue. On 1st March 2017 the DfE announced plans to replace the term 'Sex and Relationships' with 'Relationships and Sex education RSE) and make this compulsory in maintained and academy secondary schools. As such this policy will remain under constant review.

Purpose

The Cherwell School is committed to providing a full and balanced curriculum and to developing a caring and responsible attitude in students.

The school believes that sex education should lead to the development of understanding and attitudes which prepare students to view their relationships in a positive, responsible and healthy manner.

Aims of Sex and Relationships Education

The school's programme aims to:

- Present an SRE programme that is inclusive of all, including members of our community who identify as LGBTQI
- Present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner
- Be set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour
- Acknowledge the role of the family, the value of family life, marriage/partnership and the responsibilities of parenthood
- Help students to develop self-esteem and make informed decisions by considering the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs and views of others, loyalty and fidelity
- Recognise that people choose not to have sex for a variety of legitimate reasons
- Encourage students to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications and risks of certain types of behaviour
- Develop a positive and healthy attitude to personal relationships (including in relation to consent)

Method of Teaching

As part of the National Curriculum in Science students are taught about reproduction in plants and animals, including human beings. This unit takes place in Year 7 and lasts for 12 lessons. In Year 9, as part of the genetics module, students are taught about fertilization and the development of the foetus including twins.

All other key aspects of sex education are delivered through Social Wellbeing lessons (previously PSHCE). These lessons are taught by the RS/PSHCE team who have experience of dealing with a range of issues in a sensitive way. The key strands of work within the department are as follows:

Year 7 – Changing Nature of Relationships (including same-sex relationships)

Year 8 - Emotional aspects of puberty, growing up and gender identity (including a look at body image linked with the media and the Internet)

Year 9 - Understanding sexual relationships, sexual health and pregnancy.

Year 10 – Emotional aspects of sex, peer pressure and a detailed look at sexual health.

Year 12 – Age-appropriate sex and relationships information, advice and guidance as part of the weekly social wellbeing sessions.

The pastoral system of the school provides further support and our School Health Nurse, Counsellors and other visiting speakers add to the provision. The School Health Nurse runs a weekly drop-in service which offers support to Y10-13 students on all aspects of sexual health as well as providing condoms and testing for pregnancy and Chlamydia and emergency contraception. When the need arises we also run bespoke courses in small groups for students considered to be at risk. The School Nurse will always advise that students talk to their parents about these important issues but the confidential nature of her work means that Parents and Carers will not always be told.

The school will ensure that all staff understand and support the purpose and aims of the Sex and Relationships Policy, and that they are also aware of their professional role and responsibilities as determined by current legislation.

We consider the sex and relationships programme to be a very important part of preparation for life. Parents and Carers have the statutory right to withdraw their children from any part of the sex and relationships programme. If they wish to do so they should inform the Head teacher in writing.

Selected resources, materials and external agencies used to deliver the sex education programme operate within the context of the school's guidelines and the Sex and Relationships Education Policy. The school policy statements are supported by detailed schemes of work and resources which are available for inspection on request.