

ABERDARE COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Sex and Relationships Policy

Drafted
June 2014
Revised on

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Mrs. S. Davies
(Headteacher)

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Mr. A. Maddox
(Chair of Interim Governing Body)

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Principles

Sex Education and Relationships (SRE) refers to our school's provision that enables our learners to reach the relevant learning outcomes set out in the Personal and Social Education (PSE) Framework. SRE also takes into account the relevant statement in the Life Processes and Living Things Programme of Study within the National Curriculum Order for Science.

Aims

SRE delivery forms a vital link in Aberdare Community School PSE programme. Specifically the aims of the SRE programme are to ensure:

- learners can be helped to maintain their emotional and physical health and well-being, sustain their growth and development, and know how to keep themselves safe.
- as they develop sexually they need to understand bodily changes, manage sexual feelings and enjoy safe, responsible and happy relationships.
- learners can also be enabled to explore their feelings, develop self-awareness and self-respect and develop their self-esteem.
- the physical development of learners depends upon proper nutrition, sufficient exercise, appropriate hygiene, safety and positive healthy choices.
- learners are equipped with the knowledge and practical skills to make informed choices in all areas
- learners can understand positive health choice and be aware of potential risks of the use and misuse of legal and illegal substances.

Learning Outcomes

Sex and relationships education is required to be placed within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour. Features such as family life in all its different forms, including marriage, sexual behaviours, parenthood and sensitive issues such as abortion need to be presented in a balanced way and ethical issues discussed objectively. However, it is equally important to equip learners to take responsibility for their

behaviour in their personal relationships and how to recognise inappropriate behaviour. Learners should know where and how to access personal information and support.

(Personal and Social Education Framework for 7 to 19 year olds in Wales – WAG 2008)

Equal Opportunities

The SRE programme plays an important role within personal effectiveness and personal development at Aberdare Community School. The school encourages respect for all. The school will therefore not accept any form of prejudice or discrimination, including that on the basis of sexual identity or sexual orientation.

Further information can be found in the school's Equal Opportunities and Anti-Bullying Policies. The school and Governing Body have fully accepted the County Policy and guidelines for teaching sex education. This publication takes into account the legal requirements of the 1993 Education Act concerning sex education.

All students have equal access and entitlement to the PSE programme regardless of their academic ability, age, sex disability or ethnic background.

Delivery and Content

Aberdare Community School has a co-ordinated holistic approach towards Personal and Social Education and therefore Sex and Relationship Education. SRE is provided through the curriculum. The school's PSE programme and department's schemes of work show how opportunities for learners to reach the relevant learning outcomes are provided. The Deputy Head-teacher for wellbeing is responsible for developing, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the programme and supporting staff involved in teaching SRE. The way the curriculum is managed, its organisation and the varying teaching styles are central to the school's philosophy and ethos.

Work to develop this cross-curricular dimension may be included in class or school based topics. Opportunities for Sex and Relationship Education are identified in teachers planning. The Certificate of Personal Effectiveness is delivered at Key Stage 3 and the Welsh

Baccalaureate at Key Stage 4 and 5 feature a range of experiences to address Sex and Relationship Education whenever appropriate.

These and other curriculum areas such as Science, Child Care and Religious Education together with our 'PSE Activity shut down days', in which a variety of exciting learning experiences are provided. These days are an opportunity for our learners to gain expert advice and support from outside agencies such as Spectacle theatre, Sexual Exploitation team, Women's Refuge and School Sexual Health Nurse.

Evidence of these learning opportunities and experiences, are kept centrally by the Deputy Headteacher for wellbeing. This will take the form of a portfolio of evidence of photographs, evaluations, learners work and appropriate schemes of work from all curriculum areas.

The Health and Emotional well-being aspect of PSE, considers the learners' physical, mental, emotional and sexual development.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Deputy Head-teacher for wellbeing and Assistant Head-teacher for CoPE and WBQ are responsible for promoting the Sexual Relationships Education programme within the school as well as co-ordinate the PSE programme, Certificate of Personal Effectiveness and the Welsh Baccalaureate. This ensures that there is strategic overview of SRE across the school.

The department is supported by the SLT and the Curriculum Manager takes the Sexual Relationship Education programme into account when planning for development, timetables and staffing.

A member of the Governing Body acts as a link Governor for Personal and Social Education (including SRE).

Parents

As with all aspects of their child's learning, parents are encouraged to discuss sex and relationships with their child, particularly following specific provision in school. Parents who are in any way concerned about the school's SRE provision are encouraged to discuss this with the relevant Progress Leader and Deputy Head-teacher responsible for SRE. If pupils are absent from specific SRE workshops, the school will take reasonable steps to make alternative provision. The school may be able to offer materials for pupils to use at home.

Parents retain the right to withdraw their child from aspects of SRE. A child may be withdrawn from aspects of SRE Workshops during activity days, but not from the science aspects. Any parent wishing to exercise this right should contact the Head-teacher in writing. Appropriate alternative arrangements will be made for pupils withdrawn from SRE workshops.

Parents will be consulted on any proposed significant changes to the school's SRE policy or provision.

Practical Arrangements for Girls

Aberdare Community School makes adequate and sensitive arrangements to help girls cope with menstruation and with requests for sanitary protection. Suitable disposal facilities are provided.

Child Protection & Confidentiality

Aberdare Community School operates a Child Protection Policy that should be read in conjunction with this policy. The issue of pupils' confidentiality is always stressed as part of the school's SRE provision. During 'Activity shut down days', Health professionals or other appropriate external visitors will be involved in delivering SRE workshops, however, they will follow their own professional code of conduct when in their professional role. A teacher will always be present throughout lessons involving an external visitor to enable our learners with a safe learning environment.

Inset

The training needs of the Deputy Head-teacher and other staff involved in the delivery of Sex and Relationship Education programme are identified via continuous professional development interviews and the department's development plan.

Teachers will access training opportunities by ASDAN for CoPE and WJEC for Welsh Baccalaureate qualifications as appropriate to the needs of the individual and/or departments.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Deputy Head-teacher and Assistant Head-teacher regularly evaluate the current programme and plan for future developments. Working together, they identify areas for development and set goals agreeing on strategies to achieve effective solutions and outcomes.

The Sex and Relationship Education programme form part of the PSE department, which is included in the ESW/Wider skills and Personal Effectiveness development plan, and feeds into the School's development plan. The department uses a variety of other methods such as questionnaires and listening to learners to monitor its performance through Aberdare Community School's Self Evaluation Framework.

This policy links to the:

- Personal and Social Education Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy