

Brompton Academy Sex and Relationships (SRE) Policy

Introduction

Under the terms of the Academy Funding agreement the Secretary of State expects The Academy Trust to have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State on sex and relationship education to ensure that children at the Academy are protected from inappropriate teaching materials and they learn the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and for bringing up children. The Academy Trust is adopting those parts highlighted below from the Education Act 1996 (which applies only to maintained schools but which the Academy Trust believe should apply to Brompton Academy)

Section 403

- The Governing Body and Principal shall take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that where sex education is given to any registered pupils at a the Academy, it is given in such a manner as to encourage those pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.
- The Secretary of State must issue guidance designed to secure that when sex education is given to registered pupils at maintained schools—
 - (a) they learn the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children, and
 - (b) they are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate having regard to the age and the religious and cultural background of the pupils concerned.

Section 404

Sex education: statements of policy.

- The governing body of a maintained school shall—
 - (a) make, and keep up to date, a separate written statement of their policy with regard to the provision of sex education,
 - (b) make copies of the statement available for inspection (at all reasonable times) by parents of registered pupils at the school and provide a copy of the statement free of charge to any such parent who asks for one.

Section 405

Exemption from sex education.

If the parent of any pupil in attendance at a maintained school requests that she/he may be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education at the school, the pupil shall, except so far as such education is comprised in the National Curriculum, be so excused accordingly until the request is withdrawn.

It is Brompton Academy's policy that sex education shall be provided for all and that it shall be done in such a manner as to encourage to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.

The academy promotes the availability of sexual health clinics, and actively supports with sexual health queries or needs. Accurate signposting of available resources and support are available to all.

What is SRE?

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

SRE is the process of acquiring information and forming attitudes and beliefs about sex, sexual identity, relationships and intimacy. It is also about developing young people's skills so that they make informed choices about their behaviour and feel confident and competent about acting on these choices. It is widely accepted that children have the right to sex education, partly because it is a means by which they can protect themselves from abuse, exploitation, unintended pregnancies, STIs and HIV/AIDS. (*Avert 2003*)

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. (*DfEE Sex and Relationship Guidance 2000*). However, the government recognises that there are strong and mutually supportive relationships outside marriage and that no stigma should be attached to home circumstances.

Aims

Our Academy aims to provide young people with:

- relationship skills that prepare them for the challenges of the teenage years and adulthood
- opportunities to explore their own values and develop their own moral framework
- opportunities to understand and accept difference and diversity
- an understanding of their own bodies
- the ability to know where to seek help and advice
- high self esteem, self awareness and emotional health
- an awareness of the right they have over their own body
- a safe and supportive climate to share and express their feelings regardless of their sexuality
- the skills to be assertive
- good communication skills
- the skills to make positive informed choices (that reduce risk)
- the ability to respect the right of others to hold opinions that differ from their own as long as these views do not impact on the rights of others
- the ability to take responsibility for and accept the consequences of their own actions
- the knowledge to reduce the risks to their own and the health of others
- to combat ignorance and increase understanding by providing information about physical, emotional and social aspects of human sexual development from conception to old age, including love, personal relationships and family life.
- to provide a suitable vocabulary for discussing sex and enable this to be used without embarrassment in a group or class or situation
- to promote an understanding of those aspects of the Law which relate to sexuality
- to counter unnecessary feelings of guilt and anxiety
- to develop an understanding of the range of human sexual attitudes and behaviour.

We aim to provide students with information on sexual health, and to promote discussion and thought into the different emotions and values involved in relationships. Through this we aim to enable to develop skills and form positive beliefs, values and attitudes which will enable them to make the right choices for themselves when the time comes. Some aspects of sex and relationships education will also be covered in Science.

Confidentiality

The Academy aims to support young people but no individual member of staff will offer absolute confidentiality. It may be necessary that if a child protection issue arises then certain confidences must be passed on. The procedure for this is outlined in the child protection policy.

Teachers will draw upon their professional judgement and common sense to deal effectively with any explicit issues raised by a student.

Support Staff and Agencies available to support young people

Individual students with problems will be supported by being given access to appropriate information and specialist help within school. The student will be made aware of services provided by their General Practitioner, local family planning clinic and sexual health clinic through Personal and Professional Development input, appropriate leaflets and the school medical profession links.

Working with Parents/Carers

We recognise that parents/carers are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. The teaching offered will aim to be complementary and supportive to the role of parents/carers. This policy document is available to all parents/carers on the school website. Parents/Carers have a statutory right to withdraw their child from all or part of the programme outside National Curriculum Science. E-Safety sessions are also provided for parents at least once a year with a focus on safeguarding pupils from sexual exploitation and grooming.

Teaching and Learning

Our programme of Sex and Relationships Education is firmly rooted within the PPD programme. Our aim is to provide a well-balanced appropriate programme of study. Students will receive sessions on SRE in each Phase generally taught in mixed gender, mixed ability groups. On occasions, students will be taught in single sex groups when appropriate. Staff are aware that our young people come from backgrounds which reflect a range of values and experiences and that sensitivity will be needed.

Synopsis of Sex and Relationships Education Programme

Phase 1

- Puberty
- Personal Hygiene
- Relationships - Making and keeping friends of the same and opposite sex
- Bullying and Emotional health and well-being
- Stereotyping
- Healthy lifestyles including healthy eating
- Attraction and Relationships
- What is sex?
- Sexual reproduction (scientific approach)
- Sexual anatomy and sexual characteristics
- Sexuality

Phase 2

- Contraception for men and women
- Conception including condom application
- Peer pressure
- Consent
- Teenage Pregnancy /Parenting
- HIV
- STI's
- Relationships
- Pregnancy options
- Sexuality
- Awareness of pornography
- Accessing local sexual advice services

Phase 3

Year 12 – taught in single sex groups where possible by appropriate gender.

- Contraception
- Conception including emergency contraception and condom application
- Peer pressure
- Teenage pregnancy /parenting
- HIV
- STI's
- Consent
- Awareness of pornography
- Relationships
- Termination and Parenthood
- Sexuality
- Accessing local sexual advice services

Science

Science will cover the following:

- biological aspects of human reproduction
- anatomy
- puberty
- uses of hormones to control fertility
- how viruses can affect human health

The programme is continually being monitored, evaluated and revised as new resources become available and the needs of young people change. There are frequent opportunities to revisit and reinforce topics throughout the PPD programme. Discussions related to media portrayal, the effects of alcohol, the importance of self esteem, and the effect of peer pressure are all examples of topics which encourage respect for self and others, responsibility for own actions and regard for others.

The Department for Education will issue up to date guidance to schools and academies in November of 2019 (expected), any amendments to statutory guidance will be included in the academy policy once available.

Reviewed: November 2018

Next Review: November 2021