



ST. ANDREW'S
COLLEGE
Cambridge

COLLEGE POLICY DOCUMENT

Sex and Relationship (SRE) policy

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1. What Is Sex and Relationship Education?

SRE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, and family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

2. Principles and Values

St. Andrew's College Cambridge believes that SRE should:

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life.
- Be an entitlement for all young people.
- Encourage every student to contribute to lessons and support each individual as they grow and learn.
- Be set within the wider college context and support family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness. Family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. nuclear family. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of different approaches.
- Encourage students and teachers to share and respect each other's views. We are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure. The important values are love, respect and care for each other.

- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sex and relationships matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- Recognise that parents/carers are key partners when teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up.
- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and work in partnership with health professionals, outside agencies and other mentors or advisers.

Sex and Relationship Education in this college has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices;
- learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships, and marriage;
- learning about the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.

Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict;
- empower students with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances (both as exploited or exploiter)

Knowledge and Understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services;
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay;

- the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

3. Aims

The aim of SRE is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health. Our SRE programme aims to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.
- communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues.
- develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity.
- understand the reasons for having protected sex.
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary
- know how the law applies to sexual relationships.

The college is committed to the provision of SRE to all of its GCSE students. Our programme aims to respond to the diversity of children's cultures, faiths and backgrounds. As in all our work, staff delivering SRE will strive to ensure that all students listen to and respect each other's views and that there is no discrimination or bullying on the grounds of gender, race, religion, colour, language, culture, social circumstances, appearance, sexuality, ability or disability. There may be occasions when students with special educational needs are given extra support in SRE lessons from SEN staff.

4. Organisation and Content of Sex and Relationship Education

St. Andrew's College Cambridge specifically delivers Sex and Relationship Education through its PSHE Programme at KS4 and in Science lessons also at KS4.

Much of the Sex and Relationship Education takes place within PSHE lessons. Tutors

generally deliver the PSHE Curriculum with support from other professionals where appropriate. Tutors work closely with their tutees over a the year of GCSE and we believe that they are usually the best people to work with the students on many of the SRE topics as they are aware of each student's individual circumstances.

SRE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included.

The Science National Curriculum is delivered by staff in the science department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction, although the importance of relationships is not forgotten.

Any SRE lesson may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education

SRE resources are chosen and checked to ensure they are:

- Up to date
- Inclusive – including different types of sexuality
- Promote positive, healthy and unbiased messages
- Age appropriate
- Promote positive values
- Accurate

Monitoring of the delivery, content, teaching and assessment of SRE is linked to the usual college monitoring procedures. It is the responsibility of the principal oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PSHE, in the context of the overall college plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning.

6. Confidentiality

All staff are aware that effective sex and relationship education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, could lead to disclosure of a child protection issue. Staff cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality and if a student should disclose a matter which potentially could/ or is placing them at harm, then this will be shared with the colleges Designated for Child Protection. Please refer to our separate Child Protection Policy on our website.

7. Right of Withdrawal of Students from Sex and Relationship Education

Some parents/carers prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons). We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. Prior to

making any decision, parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with the Principal at the earliest opportunity and are welcome to review any SRE resources the college uses.

Footnote: Please the college's separate Anti-bullying Policy which is displayed on our website.

Reviewed: July 2016.

Next review: August 2017