



**NEWENT COMMUNITY SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE**

SEX & RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

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SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Sex and relationship education is not an isolated issue. Students are encouraged to value their bodies and make responsible decisions on health, moral and socially related issues.

The policy exists in order to provide appropriate and accessible information so that students are able to make informed decisions and are then able to express their opinions in an assertive, positive and sensitive manner without undue influence from their peers, media or society.

2. AIMS

- Provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and processes of human reproduction.
- Lead to the acquisition of understanding and attitudes in order to enable them to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.
- Provide a programme, which is tailored not only to the age but also the understanding of students.
- Present information in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner with awareness of the law on sexual behaviour.
- Encourage students to appreciate the value of stable family life, marriage, and responsibilities of parenthood.
- Allow students to examine the physical, emotional and moral implications of behaviour and to appreciate the need for both sexes to behave responsibly regarding sexual manners.
- Develop awareness of sexual identity, and to challenge sexism and prejudice in society.
- Encourage the development of social skills and strategies, which will reduce the risk of exploitation, misunderstanding and abuse.
- Develop understanding of what constitutes a 'healthy' sexual relationship including exploration of teen domestic violence, sexual exploitation/consent
- Exploring the influence of technology on sexual behaviour including on-line pornography and sexting.

Informative discussions regarding the transmission of the HIV virus will, by the very nature of the subject, include mention of sexual acts and practices. Teachers will deal sensitively and objectively with information of this kind, at the same time trying to avoid the development of bias and prejudice. In relation to HIV, Staff are also aware that they may be dealing with students who are HIV positive or who have close links with others who are.

3. PROGRAMME

The Sex Education elements of the National Curriculum Science Order are mandatory for all students of secondary school age. These cover anatomy, puberty, and biological aspects of sexual reproduction and use of hormones to control and promote fertility.

The Sex Education programme is co-ordinated by the Head of PSHE and delivered by a team of enthusiastic and committed teachers in a number of 50-minute lessons. Teaching teams are offered training for more challenging topics either run by the Head of PSHE or at County level. Subject staff in RE and Drama also cover broader issues.

Newent School believes that learning about sexuality and relationships is a process and that will occur in both the school and home setting and in both formal and informal ways. However, sex and relationship education is much too important to be left to chance and, therefore, it must be part of a planned, coherent and relevant health education programme. Topics are developed and revisited as students' progress through the school. Students will be taught sex and relationship education in mixed groups unless it is felt inappropriate to do so.

The programme is delivered through a variety of styles and approaches to suit the topic and ability level. Whole group and small group discussion, didactic teaching, role-plays, displays and student own research and information gathering from specific websites.

Videos are used to provide information and trigger discussion. They are useful to put across a range of different viewpoints, which may not otherwise be expressed. All videos used should be viewed by teaching staff beforehand and their suitability and relevance debated.

External agencies and visitors form a valuable part of the delivery team, complementing but never substituting for teachers. These include the school nurse, a volunteer doctor, family planning clinics, Samaritans, Gay Helpline, Police and Healthwise and occasionally theatre groups.

3.1 Extended Nurse Drop-In

This is a weekly; confidential student self-referral service. It is run by the school nurse. The service is based in the school counselling room and deals with all health issues.

3.2 Healthwise

The school has a close relationship with, and promotes "Healthwise," a local drop-in facility for young people which was originally set up after discussion with students, health workers, teachers and other relevant professionals. "Healthwise", run by medical professionals, provides confidential and accessible health and sexual health advice, guidance and information. It is based in 'Chillout' the local youth cafe in Newent.

3.3 Specific Issues

- Teachers may encourage individual students to seek professional health advice when appropriate. There is thus no legal barrier to teachers giving encouragement and explicit information on using local sexual health services to all students either individually or as part of their education programmes. In all cases, however, the teacher has a general duty to ensure that the students are aware of moral, physical and legal implications.
- A teacher approached by students for advice should, wherever possible, encourage them to seek advice from their parents/carers, and, if appropriate, from the relevant health service professional. We are fortunate in having a School Matron, a Link Nurse which includes an extended nurse weekly drop-in facility, Healthwise, who can give advice and support to students.
- Controversial topics may arise which depend on the judgement of individual teachers as to whether the topics are suitable for class discussion.
- Confidentiality, wherever possible teachers will forge trust with students, however, teachers are aware that at all times it is their professional responsibility to inform students that any information which

should be passed on to others *will be* passed on and that confidentiality in such circumstances, cannot be kept. Any concerns about sexual abuse must be followed up under Child Protection Procedures. Health professionals have different guidelines and procedures for confidentiality.

- The school acknowledges the rights of parents to withdraw their children wholly or partially from sex education with the exception of those parts included in the National Curriculum. A parental letter outlining general areas covered in the sex education programme is issued to parents/guardians of year 7 students and then the signed returned forms are retained in students' individual files or by the PSHE Co-Coordinator.
- Parents, who wish to withdraw their children from all, or part of the sex and relationship programme, should inform the Principal of their decision. Parents/carers are welcome to meet members of staff to discuss their decision.

4. STAFF TRAINING

Appropriate courses are made available for relevant staff.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURE FOR MONITORING

The adopted policy is published on the school website.

Under the 1993 Education Act all schools must provide and make available for inspection, an up-to-date policy describing the content and organisation of SRE outside National Curriculum Science. This school Governing Body is responsible for producing and maintaining written policy on sex and relationship education.

The Sex And Relationship Education Policy will be reviewed every 2 years or when required due to legislative changes.