



ENDEAVOUR
PERSEVERE
ACHIEVE

Emerson Park Academy

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

Approved by Board of Directors:

Reviewed: June 2016

Rationale and Objectives

Rationale:

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) at Emerson Park Academy provides a safe environment for the development of a good self-image and the knowledge that individuals are in charge of and responsible for their own bodies. It provides knowledge about the processes of reproduction and the nature of sexuality and relationships. It also encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow students to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

Objectives:

- To enable students to understand the biological aspects of reproduction.
- To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of family planning in terms of personal preference and their social and moral implications.
- To recognise and be able to discuss sensitive and controversial issues such as conception, virginity, birth, child-rearing, abortion, sexually transmitted infections and technological developments which involve consideration of attitudes, values, beliefs and morality.
- To make students aware of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day society and recognise the importance of personal choice in managing relationships so that they do not present risks to health and personal safety.
- To make students aware that feeling positive about sexuality and sexual activity is important in relationships and that people have the right not to be sexually active.
- To understand the changing nature of sexuality over time and its impact on lifestyles, e.g. the menopause.
- To recognise that parenthood is a matter of choice.
- To critically analyse moral values and explore those held by different cultures and groups.
- To understand the concept of stereotyping and to discuss issues such as sexual harassment in terms of their effects on individuals.
- To understand aspects of legislation relating to sexual behaviour, gender and equal opportunities and to make aware the availability of statutory and voluntary organisations which offer support in human relationships.
- To understand the complexities, legalities and longevity of using Social Media Technology.
- To be aware of extreme issues such as FGM and breast ironing and understand that this practice is illegal in the UK.
- To be aware that relationships must be used to impose ideas of radicalisation and extremism.

Delivery

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) at Emerson Park Academy is taught in a variety of ways: within the curriculum it is taught in Science and PSHE in lower school and currently in Cultural Studies in upper school. In addition a number of Form Activities carry messages of safe and healthy relationships and a variety of outside agencies are used to deliver assemblies and workshops to students such as Social Media Technology / Sexting awareness.

Throughout the course of teaching SRE a variety of sensitive issues will inevitably be explored. It is recognised that an individual's sexuality is a highly personal matter. The teaching of Sex and Relationships Education at Emerson Park Academy will place stress upon the need for understanding and awareness of a variety of sexual preferences across the spectrum of human sexuality.

It is intended that students will be given up-to-date information on a wide variety of contraceptive methods and whilst general statements about the efficacy of these methods will be given, specific advice and guidance to individuals will not be made without consultation with the parents/carers.

Emerson Park Academy recognises that Sex and Relationships Education is a difficult issue which will place demands on schools and teachers. However, the purpose of this education should be to provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the processes of human reproduction. At the same time it should lead to the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare students to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

The Sex and Relationships Education delivered at Emerson Park Academy is tailored to the age and understanding of the students. Emerson Park also aim to present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner. It will be set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law regarding sexual behaviour.

Students will be encouraged to appreciate the value of a stable family life and the responsibilities of parenthood. Such matters will be treated with sensitivity and great care will be taken to encourage all children to feel a sense of worth. Particular care will be taken when issues such as marital breakdown and divorce are dealt with.

Curriculum

Science

In Year 7 Science students learn about scientific context of sex and relationships. They learn the structure and function of reproductive organs, menstruation, puberty, pregnancy and birth.

In Year 10 Science students study the spread of STIs including chlamydia and HIV. They learn about the stages of the menstrual cycle including the roles of oestrogen and progesterone. This includes repair and maintenance of the uterus wall, ovulation and menstruation. They also learn how hormonal contraception influences the menstrual cycle and prevents pregnancy and they compare hormonal and barrier methods of contraception. Students need to explain the use of hormones in Assisted Reproductive Technology including IVF and clomifene therapy.

PSHE

Students will explore issues of healthy relationships at in Key Stage 3 and 4 through structured lessons.

Relationships

In Year 7, the students will cover topics including the importance of relationships, the emotional and physical changes that occur during puberty and the impact of these changes on their relationships. Students examine the impact of peer pressure on their choices. In Year 8, these changes are explored further and students continue to learn about peer pressure and its impact on their choices. In year 10, students will learn about healthy and unhealthy relationships and the impact on their health and wellbeing. Students will learn that homophobia is a form of bullying and the importance of respecting difference. (Within Cultural Studies, the students will also be able to explore different religious attitudes towards sex and relationships.)

Unprotected Sex

Students will also cover topics relating to the consequences of unprotected sex. These include contracting sexually transmitted infections. In Year 8, the students will have a general introduction to STIs. In Year 9, this is developed further and the students will learn about HIV and AIDs. In Year 10, the students develop their knowledge further by learning, about the most common STIs affecting young people in Britain and where they can go for information and help.

The Law

The students will learn about sex, relationships and the law. The students will develop their understanding of consent. The students will explore difficulties faced by teenage parents and what is the ideal age at which to become a parent. Teenagers will be encouraged to understand the benefits of having a family within a stable family environment.

Contraception

Students will learn about the different contraceptive methods available; their benefits and limitations. They will be able to understand which contraceptive methods which protect against pregnancy and the methods which protect against both STIs and pregnancy. They will also be able to consider that they do not have to have a sexual relationship at all, if they do not choose to.

The Parental Right to Withdraw their Son or Daughter from Sex Education Lessons:

Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the school's programme of sex education, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order. It is realised that, under exceptional circumstances, a very small number of parents/carers may wish to exclude their children from this programme. In this case, such parents should write to the Head Teacher, stating their objections. Parents/carers will then be invited in to discuss the matter in more detail and which particular aspects of this education they wish to remove their child from. The biological element of reproduction remains within the National Curriculum in Science for Key Stage 3.

Advice to Individual Students:

It is understood that it is important to distinguish between the Academy's function of providing education generally about sexual matters and the giving of advice to individual students on these issues. It is the general rule that giving an individual student advice on such matters without parental knowledge or consent would be inappropriate.

Where the circumstances are such as to lead the teacher to believe that the student has embarked upon, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which is likely to place him or her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, the teacher has the general responsibility to ensure that the Child Protection Officer is informed immediately. Parents and carers will be consulted with as a matter of course.