

## **Maple Medical PRU**

### **Sex and Relationship Education Policy (SRE)**

The Sex and Relationships Education Policy has been developed in accordance with the current requirements of the law, taking into account the Children's Act 1989, 2004 and 2017 and the Education Act 1993 and 2002.

#### **The Consultation Process**

Has Involved

- Pupil focus groups
- Questionnaires to parents / carers
- Review of SRE curriculum content with staff and pupils
- Consultation with wider school community e.g. school nurse
- Consultation with Management Committee

#### **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, for family life. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes.

#### **Principles and Values**

In addition Maple PRU 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 our community and aim to support each individual as they grow and learn.
- Be set within the wider school 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 and gender identity, 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 sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.

- Recognise that parents/ carers are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents/ carers and students, consulting them about the content of programmes.
- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with health professionals, social workers, peer educators and other mentors or advisers.

## **Sex and Relationship Education in this school 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;
- empowering 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 of life;
- 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 and/or STIs.

### **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, or future 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.

### **Organisation and Content of Sex and Relationship Education**

Maple Medical PRU specifically delivers Sex and Relationship Education through its PSHE Programme, Health and Social Care and Science lessons at KS3, and KS4. Within the Hospital School, we deliver to KS1 and 2 as well as KS3 and 4 at the request of the mainstream school.

Much of the Sex and Relationship Education at Maple takes place within PSHE lessons. Teachers and learning mentors generally deliver the PSHE curriculum with support from professionals such as the school nurse and sexual health nurse where appropriate. 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 curriculum is delivered by science teachers. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction, although the importance of relationships is also acknowledged.

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.

Within Maple we cover PHSE in morning meetings, throughout the year with outside agencies coming in, visits to Lifewise, the school nursing service and embedded within the curriculum.

In the Hospital School we also support medical staff e.g. cystic fibrosis nurses to deliver SRE to pupils. These lessons contain information pertinent to their condition. and are done as individual lessons.

### *Ethnic and Cultural Groups*

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups. For some young people it is not culturally appropriate for them to be taught particular items in mixed groups. We will respond to parental / carer requests and concerns.

### *Students with Special Needs*

We will ensure that all young people receive sex and relationship education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our students, taking specialist advice where necessary.

### *Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation*

We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them.

## **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, Health and Social Care lessons). We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. Parents/ carers are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity. Parents/ carers are welcome to review any SRE resources the school uses.

## **Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues**

Teachers and support staff cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. Teachers are not legally bound to inform parents/ carers or Head teacher of any disclosure unless the Head teacher has specifically requested them to do so.

In a case where a teacher learns from an under 16 year old that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- the young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to parent/carer and if necessary to seek medical advice.
- child protection issues will be considered, and referred to the teacher responsible for Child Protection under the school's procedures.

- the young person will be properly counselled about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services
- Any young mum who is attending Maple Medical PRU will have a meeting with a Learning Mentor whilst they are pregnant and upon their return to school about preventing further conceptions via the P2P Service at Project 3 Sexual Health Service at East Laithgate House, Doncaster
- If a young person needs further support, a Learning Mentor will accompany them to advice services eg Sexual Health Clinic

In any case where child protection procedures are followed, the teacher will ensure that the young person understands that if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first.

There is a school nurse drop in service once every half term for pupils who wish to see a health professional on a confidential basis.

Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct in a one-to-one situation with an individual student, but in a classroom situation they must follow the school's confidentiality policy.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education**

It is the responsibility of the senior leadership team to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of PSHE, in the context of the overall school plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning.

The National Children's Bureau (NCB) has a 'toolkit' for consulting young people on SRE. It contains guidance for schools on reviewing SRE provision. Pupils in Maple are asked to review the current provision to identify strengths and weaknesses and for them to include what they perceive as important issues which need to be addressed in SRE.

The senior leadership team is responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of the Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Ofsted is required to evaluate and report on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students. This includes evaluating and commenting on the school's sex and relationship education policy, and on support and staff development, training and delivery.

**Headteacher signature**.....

**Management Committee signature**.....

**Pupil Representative signature**.....

**Date of policy: April 2018**

**Policy Review date: April 2020**