

Title	SEX and RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY
Cross References	Internal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍑 Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
Date	October 2023

DEFINITION

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is part of lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.

VALUES & ETHOS

- 🍑 We believe that effective SRE helps students make responsible and informed decisions about their lives.
- 🍑 SRE does not encourage early sexual experimentation. It teaches students to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.
- 🍑 SRE builds up knowledge and skills that are particularly important today because of the many different and conflicting pressures on students.
- 🍑 SRE needs to be firmly embedded in PSHE, Religious Studies, and throughout the curriculum, where appropriate, through SMSC

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

In sex and relationship education we aim to:

- 🍑 provide accurate information about, and increase the understanding of sex related issues;
- 🍑 explore a range of attitudes and values towards sex-related issues and help students to reach their own, informed opinions;
- 🍑 develop a sense of mutual respect and care of others;
- 🍑 foster self-esteem, self-awareness and confidence with regards to sex related issues;
- 🍑 dispel myths;
- 🍑 develop skills in communication, risk assessment, decision-making, assertiveness, conflict management, seeking help, helping others relevant to sex-related behaviours.

PARENT'S RIGHTS TO WITHDRAW THEIR CHILDREN

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex and relationship education programme, except for those parts which are in the statutory National Curriculum.

If a parent wishes to withdraw their child, they should:

- 🍑 discuss this with Apricot Online's management team;
- 🍑 make clear in which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate

SEXUAL IDENTITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Sex and Relationship Education will meet the needs of all students regardless of their developing sexuality. We will:

- o deal with questions honestly and sensitively;
- o answer appropriate questions and offer support;
- o liaise closely with parents to reassure them of the content and context;
- o challenge homophobic bullying;
- o not directly promote any particular sexual orientation.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The key issues we wish to stress on confidentiality in sex and relationship education are:

- o students will be reassured that their interests will be maintained;
- o students will be encouraged to talk to parents/carers;
- o ensuring that students know that teachers cannot guarantee complete confidentiality but that they will know first if it must be broken;
- o ensuring that students are informed of sources of confidential advice.

DISCLOSURES

If we learn that an under 16 year old is sexually active or contemplating sexual activity, we will ensure that:

- o the student is encouraged to talk to their parent/carer;
- o child protection issues are addressed;
- o the student receives adequate counselling and information or referral to an appropriate service.

DEALING WITH QUESTIONS

We will deal with questions about sex and relationships education by:

- o setting clear parameters of what is appropriate and inappropriate within the ground rules;
- o acknowledging if a teacher does not know the answer to a particular question;
- o acknowledging a question which may be too explicit, is age inappropriate for the student or the whole class or raises concerns about sexual abuse, and promising to attend to it later on an individual basis.

Working with other AGENCIES

- o We work closely with commissioning bodies to secure the best interest of students

Authorised by: Jodie Butler, Operations Director

Date: October 2023

Review Date: October 2024