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Sex and Relationship Education Policy

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Ratified by Governors on 4th July 2018



**SIDDAL
MOOR**

Where students *fly high* through the
expectation of *excellence* in *everything* we do

This policy has been developed in accordance with DfE SRE guidance 2000 (Ref: DfE 0116/2000) and Rochdale LA guidance for writing an SRE policy, 2011.

Statement

The staff and governors of Siddal Moor value individual students as they grow and develop into sexually active adults. It is in this respect that the Sex and Relationship Education Policy has been created. Together, teachers, learning mentors, form tutors, heads of year and the senior leadership team will support students, parents and external agencies to implement this policy.

The context of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

The aims and values of Siddal Moor underpin the ways in which we ensure a 'whole school' approach to providing an effectively taught curriculum for all our students, and a sensitive response to pastoral issues.

We believe that students have an entitlement to learn about sex and relationships as part of PSHE and the wider curriculum. We acknowledge the vital role of parents and seek to support them through on-going consultation and ensuring that the policy reflects their views.

Taking into account the diverse range of young people within our community, our aim is to:

- Provide an effective SRE programme that meets the needs of all our students as they develop sexually.
- Provide opportunities for all students to understand themselves within the wider context of physical and emotional changes and to equip them with the skills and understanding to be confident with their own sexuality.

The PSHE curriculum is proactive and developed and reviewed annually to enable staff to understand the needs of students in different year groups. The school's Anti-bullying and Child Protection policies will also be referred to in order to create a safe and secure environment for this consent to be delivered.

It is in this respect that the content of SRE is developed. Students will often be taught by Form Tutors who know them best and it is hoped that this team remains stable throughout the years. Staff will be supported by outside agencies, such as the Sexual Health Team, in delivering content. Students appreciate the expertise of these agencies and feel comfortable in discussing topics of a sexual and personal nature. Students will, therefore, be in groups of mixed gender and age as well as single gender and age groups.

In addition, we have a trained member of staff who will deliver a session to every individual form group in the school to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation.

A safe environment for teaching and learning about Sex Education and Relationships.

Confidentiality

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. We believe our students need to be aware of this and understand the issues involved. It is our aim to support all students through effective procedures.

Staff are aware that students sometimes share information of a confidential nature and understand and value the importance of their role. Staff will treat every confidence in a sensitive way so that the students feel supported. However, both students and staff understand that there are some instances where confidences will have to be shared with others in order to protect and support the student.

Learning Environment

It is our aim that students feel confident and comfortable when asking questions, both in class and around school. In most cases, student's questions will be answered openly and honestly. However, on occasion, students may ask questions that are not appropriate, i.e. questions about a teacher's personal life or of a sensitive nature.

Homophobic, Sexual or Gender Bullying and Stereotypes

It is clear in the Anti-bullying policy that Siddal Moor does not condone homophobic, sexual or gender bullying. We acknowledge that not every student or family will agree or understand the needs of each group of students but it is our responsibility to ensure that they are able to access the curriculum without fear or prejudice and, if necessary, action will be taken against those students who do not allow this as stated in the Anti-bullying policy. It may be necessary to invite outside agencies into school to speak to students on some of these issues. For example, the LGBT team for a student who identifies himself or herself as homosexual.

Issues of a sensitive nature: Contraception, Homosexuality, Abortion

Siddal Moor is a non-denominational school and will therefore attempt to provide information to students that is non-biased and based on scientific research and evidence. As a school, we treat every student as an individual and respect their right to choose. If staff feel that a student is at risk, they will follow the guidelines of the Child Protection policy. Staff may also refer students to the Inclusion Team, who may work with outside agencies such as the Sexual Health Team, Sunrise or the school nurse.

Outside Agencies and Speakers

Any agency or speaker invited into Siddal Moor will be expected to be tolerant of the school's ethos, culture of teaching and learning and be respectful to the social, emotional and cultural needs of our students.

The school may request their resources beforehand to ensure they follow the guidelines and aims of this policy.

Legal aspects relating to SRE

The biological elements of SRE, including puberty and reproduction, as set out in the National Curriculum for Science are mandatory for all students. The material selected for delivering SRE will be appropriate to the age group, religious and cultural background of all students.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 aims to clarify what constitutes a crime of a sexual nature against children, young people and adults. The Act does not limit children's entitlement to SRE. Staff who give information or advice with the purpose of protecting a child from pregnancy, STIs, protecting their physical safety or promoting their well-being will not be guilty of an offence.

The Equality Act 2010 has three main aims. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act.
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Siddal Moor is required to comply with the new Equality Duty.

Other school policies that this policy might be cross-referenced with are:

- Child Protection
- Anti-bullying

Parental Right to Withdrawal from SRE

If parents wish to withdraw their child from the non-statutory elements of SRE they must write to the appropriate Head of Year. Parents may be contacted by a member of staff to discuss the exclusion of their child from SRE and to look at the resources used.

Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing

The school will review and assess this policy annually through the Deputy Headteacher – Pastoral and the Pastoral Team. They will seek advice from the School Nurse and other agencies who work with young people and sexual health. A copy of the policy will be available on the school website and at the request of parents. After the consultation period, appropriate changes may be made and then taken to the Governing Body for ratification.

This policy will be promoted through the relevant areas of the National Curriculum and PSHE. It will be implemented through the school community.