



Sex & Relationships

Review Cycle	Annual / 2 years / 3 years / Fixed / Set by LA	
Owned By	Head Teacher	
Document History / Action	Who	Date

Sex & Relationships Education Policy

1. Background

Palmerston is a secondary school for pupils aged 11-19 with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties. The pupils come from across Liverpool and reflect the wide social, ethnic and religious natures of these areas.

2. Policy Information and consultation

During the spring term 2006 groups of staff, governors, parent governors and pupils hold a series of meetings to discuss the SRE policy and curriculum map. The policy was presented to parents in the summer term during a Healthy Lifestyles day. In formulating the policy, regard was given to the Every Child Matters outcomes, SRE guidance (DFES 2000) and views expressed in Sex Education and Sexuality for Very Special People Flo Longhorn 1997.

This policy is reviewed annually.

3. Aims

Palmerston School places a high emphasis on education for adult life and sex and relationships education is seen as an educational entitlement for all pupils and an integral part of each pupil's emergence into adulthood.

We aim to:

- provide information for parents and young people
- give pupils skills in keeping themselves safe
- encourage people to make responsible decisions about the relationships they form with others
- develop the pupils whole personality and a sense of dignity and respect for themselves
- foster self-esteem, positive self-image and confidence, which are important aspects of decision-making.
- develop skills of assertiveness, communication and explore feelings and attitudes such as love, care, respect, trust, grief, sadness and joy
- help young people exercise their own attitudes and values.

Other policies which have relevance to sex and relationships education are:

- PHSE/ Citizenship
- Equal Opportunities
- Behaviour and Anti Bullying
- Child Protection and safe guarding guidance
- Communication
- SEN
- Science

4. Moral and Values Framework

We believe it is important to teach our pupils how to understand and cope with their developing sexuality. We need to equip them with the knowledge and skills to make informed choices about if they want to enter loving relationships and how to do this in

ways that are acceptable to the society in which they live. In doing so staff need to consider each individual pupils: age, intellect, ability to self-advocate, communication skills and vulnerability.

These considerations are set in the context of a value system where pupils are encouraged to:

- value and respect themselves and others

- understand and show sensitivity towards the needs and views of others
- take responsibility for their actions
- understand they have a stake in their family, the school and the wider community.

5. **Equal Opportunities**

Palmerston School is committed to working towards equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life. Please refer to the Equal Opportunities Policy for more detail.

6. **Content and Organisation**

Sex and relationships education provides knowledge and encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes, which allow our pupils to manage their lives in a responsible healthy way.

The attached curriculum map details how Sex and Relationships Education is delivered via science and PHSE and Citizenship work together to oversee the planning, implementation and review of the programme.

A wide range of resources are available to support teaching and learning and parents may view these resources either at planned events e.g. Health Lifestyles days or by appointment.

Staff will be supported in teaching Sex and relationships Education via curriculum meetings, training and induction processes. Staff are requested to teach within the schools value framework and not allow their personal beliefs and attitudes to influence the teaching of Sex and Relationships Education within the curriculum framework.

7. **Specific Issues Statements**

It is an offence for a teacher to have a sexual relationship with a full time pupil in the same school, who is under 18.

The following issues may occur as part of sex and relationships education. Staff, parents and pupils need to be aware of the school's procedures.

Confidentiality and advice

Pupils will be made aware that some information cannot be held confidential, and made to understand that if certain disclosures are made certain action will ensue. At the same time pupils will be offered sensitive and appropriate support. The following procedures will be adhered to by all adults.

Disclosure of suspicion of possible abuse

The school's child protection procedures will be invoked (see relevant policy).

Disclosure of pregnancy or advice on contraception to under 16's

In dealing with this issue staff will consider the pupils needs and ability to communicate. The priority will be given to helping the pupil to communicate their needs and wishes to involve their parents/ carers if at all possible.

Information and guidance will be sought from a health professional. The school will always encourage pupils to talk with their parents first. Pupils will be asked whether they can tell their parent(s) and whether they want help in doing so. If this takes place subsequent responsibility then lies with the parent(s). This will need to be checked.

If a pupil refuses to tell their parent(s) the adult will refer them to a health professional. The adult will report the incident to the Head teacher who will consult with the health professional about informing the parent(s).

Working with parents and pupil withdrawal procedures

The school is committed to working in partnership with parents. Under the 1993 Education Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships

education programme outside the National Curriculum. Parents wishing to exercise that right are asked to make an appointment with the head teacher to discuss their concerns. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in later sex and relationships education without parental approval. The curriculum map clearly shows which elements are a compulsory part of the science curriculum and which are in PHSE.

Complaints procedure

Any complaints about the sex and relationships education curriculum should be made to the Curriculum Deputy Head who will report to the governors via the link governor.

HIV/AIDS, Contraception, Abortion and Sexuality

As part of the sex and relationships education programme issues of HIV/AIDS, contraception, abortion and sexuality are addressed. Facts are presented in an objective and balanced manner. Pupils are encouraged to consider their attitudes and values within the moral framework outlined earlier. They will be made aware of the difference between fact, opinion and religious belief.

Family life

The value of family life is an important aspect which will be approached largely through a consideration of the qualities, and relationships, of a group of people with an emphasis on stability, respect, caring and support.

Outside agencies

Outside agencies will be used to support and assist the teachers in the development of the classroom-based work. On rare occasions, outside agencies may be involved in classroom-based work as part of the planned development programme following discussion and negotiation. They will be required to work within the school's moral framework outlined earlier.

HIV/AIDS policy

The school follows the procedure outlined by the City Council to support pupils or staff infected or affected by HIV/AIDS (see relevant document).

Dissemination of the policy

A summary of this policy is included in the school prospectus. The full policy and curriculum programme are available to parents, the LEA and OFSTED on request through the Head teacher.

Evaluation, monitoring & review

Elements of sex and relationships education within the science curriculum will be assessed using PIVATS and B Squared.

The sex and relationships education programme will be monitored by the SMT in consultation with the PHSE Co-ordinator and Head of Science. Any issues will be considered by the Governors Curriculum Committee.

APPENDIX I - Curriculum Map.

Curriculum Map for sex and Relationship Education at Palmerston School

Year Group or Key Stage	Science	PHSE	Other
KS3 (Years 7,8 and 9)	Humans as Organisms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic needs • healthy living, good nutrition for growth • reproduction • parents and young • lifecycles Variations in the species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • male/ female • characteristics of humans • differences between humans • lifecycles 	Equals units Developing a healthy, safer lifestyle 3.3 c <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • puberty, awareness of emotional, social and physical changes Personal Hygiene 3.3e <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staying clean • washing genitals • how and where Changing Relationships 3.4a <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sexual feelings • boyfriend/ girlfriend • puberty and mood change Peer pressure 3.4e <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assertiveness • speaking to trusted adults Compromise, Goodwill, Conflict, Resolution 3.4f <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriate ways of treating others • actions and consequences Public and private places and actions Friends and Family Festivals and Celebrations Marriage, christenings	Menstruation video and session Hygiene, disposed of soiled products Grooming sessions Massage, appropriate touching Sensory work.

Year Group or Key Stage	Science	PHSE	Other
KS4 (Years 10 and 11)	Equals Unit 4.2c Life processes and living things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • human reproduction • puberty changes • sexual intercourse • contraception • Babies and their needs 	Equals Units Safe Relationships and Lifestyles 4.3a Developing a healthy safer lifestyle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore significance of personal relationships • asking for help, risk Sex and Relationships 4.5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • birth control/ advice • changing body • personal violation (4.5a) • teenage pregnancy/ help • attitudes to sex • rights and options (4.5b) • personal protection • STD, HIV/AIDS (4.5c) • relationships and divorce (4.5d) • pregnancy and birth/ choices • good health (4.5e) • legal issues • masturbation 	Massage, appropriate touching Sensory work.

Year Group or Key Stage	Science	PHSE	Other
Post 16		<p>Personal Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • healthy living • emotions and how to cope • safer behaviour • making decisions/ consent • lifestyles/ life choices • social situations and appropriate behaviour <p>Self awareness of our body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • body parts and changes • hygiene • touching and appropriateness • sexual feelings <p>Family and Friends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • different relationships • changing relationships • leaving home, leaving school • roles and responsibilities in a relationship 	<p>Massage – appropriate touch</p> <p>Emotional well being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • circle time • relaxation • feelings and emotions <p>Girls group</p> <p>Boys group</p> <p>External agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Door <p>Sensory work</p>