Gillotts School

**Sex and Relationship Education Policy**

Reviewed date: February 2019

Review Date: February 2021

Gillotts has over 800 students who come from a wide area in and around Henley. The school supports students in achieving the best they can and endeavours to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they may meet in their future lives.

**Rationale**

It is our aim to deliver effective sex and relationship education (SRE) to all students so that they can make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives. SRE helps and supports students through their physical, emotional and moral development. Gillotts endeavours to help students develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about sex and relationships.

**Aims of our policy**

* Safeguard the health and safety of students.
* Clarify the school’s approach to SRE to all staff, students and governors, parents and carers and external agencies.
* Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.
* Develop a whole school approach to SRE in the context of the curriculum in school.
* Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.

**Policy background**

This policy has been written with reference to national and LA guidelines. It will be reviewed by the PSHE coordinator every two years. The review will take into account the usefulness and effectiveness of the policy using comments and observations from the school community. Other considerations that will be taken into account are national and/ or local changes in health education needs, educational guidance and information from health agencies and other support groups. We also monitor websites to ensure we stay up to date with current policy and practice:

* PSHE-Association
* Relevant SRE websites, eg [www.brook.org.uk](about:blank) and [www.sexeducationforum.org.uk/schools](http://www.sexeducationforum.org.uk/schools)
* SMSC internal tracker

The policy links with other policies and protocols including PSHE. The PSHE coordinator will be responsible for:

* Policy development and review, involving students, staff, parents, governors and local agencies.
* Implementation of the policy and monitoring its delivery across the curriculum.

**Dissemination**

Copies of this policy are available from the school office and will be included in the induction of new staff, supply staff and trainees and monitored for effective use. It will be mentioned in the school’s Parents Handbook and discussed with parents and students.

# Objectives of SRE

* Students are given timely accurate information and helped to develop skills to enable them to stay healthy and respect themselves and others. However, this information is delivered with regard to the need to ensure that students are protected from teaching and materials that are inappropriate, with respect to age, religion and cultural background of the pupils concerned.
* Students are given an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
* Students are given the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.
* Students learn to understand human sexuality, learn the reasons for delaying sexual activity and to understand the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, confidence, respect, care and empathy.
* Students prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life while understanding that sexual activity is illegal under the age of 16.
* Students are given the opportunity to be critically aware of the effect of messages imparted by the media about sex, relationships, gender and sexuality.
* Students are given the opportunity to realise that relationships involve emotional awareness and a sense of respect for one’s own and others’ feelings, decisions, rights and bodies.
* Students explore and understand the difference in relation to gender and sexuality and how it feels to be discriminated against.
* Students are able to describe the positive qualities within a relationship and how relationships affect health and wellbeing.

**Parental involvement**

We want to ensure that parents are aware of the content of the sex and relationship education programme; this policy is made freely available to all parents. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex education provided, but not from teaching of the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that is required under national curriculum Science. We provide SRE awareness evenings as an opportunity for parents to obtain information and to gain confidence in talking about relationships with their children. Parents are welcome to make an appointment to come into school and talk to us about any concerns or questions they may have.

In all National Curriculum subjects, discussions may arise from apparently unrelated topics when moral and ethical issues are addressed. As long as these discussions take place within the context of the subject, they will not be considered to be part of SRE and therefore will not be subject to the parental right of withdrawal.

**Curriculum**

SRE education in our school aims to enable all students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards relationships and developing and practising decision making skills. Aspects of SRE includes sexuality, relationships, sex and the law, contraception, parenting, information on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. The programme we follow is based on national and local guidelines for good practice and will be appropriate to our students.

We provide all students with SRE education as an integral part of our PSHE curriculum. SRE is also delivered through cross-curricular links, in addition to the whole school PSHE days, assemblies, tutor time programmes and visitors in school.

Teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the differing needs and learning styles of students. The programme will be evaluated annually through recorded feedback from students and staff.

**Use of outside speakers and visitors**

Nomad, Relate, The Terrence Higgins Trust, Counselling groups, the School Health Nurse and the School Health team support SRE in our school. We use visitors to support our planned programme of education. All visits to the school are planned following our Trips and Visits procedures which are informed by OCC's Outdoor Education advice.

**Provision of support for vulnerable students**

The Hub, Didcot, offers 1:1 or group interventions dealing with all risky behaviour.

Gateway offers mentoring for students going through a difficult time, working with students with low self esteem and low self worth which often results in risky behaviour.

**The School Nurse**

The School Nurse is available to all students for both medical and emotional support.

Students can also be referred on for more specialist support.

**Monitoring and evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education**

The PSHE Leader will be responsible for the overall monitoring and evaluation of the delivery of SRE. This will include ensuring that all the elements of the curriculum are covered and for evaluating the quality of delivery. This will be supported by whole school Quality Assurance processes including the Leadership QA (every 3 years) and the Internal QA (in the other two years).