



GRIMSBY INSTITUTE GROUP

Personal, Social and Health Education and Sex Education Policy

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1. Introduction

This policy was developed in response to Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfES 2000, the National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and National Healthy Schools Programme. Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about 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.

2. Principles and Values

The Academy Grimsby (the Academy) firmly believes that PSHE should:

- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life
- Be provided for all students including those with physical, learning or emotional difficulties
- Be an entitlement for all young people developing self-respect and empathy for others.
- Be about learning to make choices with an absence of prejudice.
- Help students develop an appreciation of the consequences of choices made.
- Address how to manage conflict.
- Provide students with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances (both as exploited or exploiter)

3. Knowledge and Understanding

At the Academy students will be able to:

- Learn and understand physical development at appropriate stages.
- Understand human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships.
- Learn about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services.
- Learn the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay.
- Learn about the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.
- Develop understanding and attitudes based on values which prepare them to view relationships in a responsible and healthy manner
- Learn about promoting sexual well-being to help reduce sexually transmitted diseases and control of HIV and AIDS.

4. Aims

PSHE and Sex Education sets out to enable students to become healthy, independent and responsible members of society. At the Academy we encourage our students to play a

positive role in contributing to the life of the Academy and the wider community. In doing so we aim to help to develop their sense of self worth and support them in learning how society is organised and governed. We aim to ensure that they experience the process of democracy within the Academy. We support our students in gaining knowledge regarding their rights and responsibilities in the hope that they will learn to appreciate what it means to be a positive member of a diverse multicultural society and make healthy lifestyle choices.

The aim 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 Sex and Relationship Education (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 have 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 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.

5. Organisation and Content of Sex and Relationship Education

The Academy specifically delivers SRE through its PSHE Programme. Much of the SRE at the Academy takes place within PSHE & Citizenship lessons. Tutors will deliver the PSHE Curriculum with support from professionals where appropriate. The tutors on many of the PSHE topics work closely with their students over a long period of time and we believe that they are usually the best people to work with individual circumstances. 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, any 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.

More expert or specialist teachers support tutors who are uncomfortable with teaching certain aspects of the curriculum. Support is offered from the PSHE co-ordinator and Health and Wellbeing team who will help with planning or delivery of lessons if required.

Assessment is carried out at the end of every module and involves teacher, student and peer assessment of knowledge and understanding, interpersonal skills, and attitudes.

6. Inclusion

6.1. Ethnic and Cultural Groups

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

6.2. Students with Special Needs

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

6.3. Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

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

7. 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 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 PSHE resources the Academy uses.

8. Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Tutors cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. Tutors are not legally bound to inform parents/carers or Head of School of any disclosure unless the Head of School has specifically requested them to do so.

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

- The student will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to their parent/carer and if necessary to seek medical advice.
- Child protection issues will be considered, and referred if necessary to the designated person for Child Protection under the Academy's procedures.
- The student will be properly counselled about contraception, including precise information about where students can access contraception and advice services.

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

Health professionals in the Academy 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.

9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

A senior member of the GIG will be identified to lead on the implementation of the Policy. This individual will monitor the effectiveness of this Policy and Procedures and where necessary, make recommendations to the Senior Management Team for improvement.

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.