



**Relationships and Sex
Education Policy
2021**

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| Responsibility: | H Bertheux |
| Review: | September 2022 |

1. Opening Statement

As a result of the Education Act 1996 it is a legal requirement that all schools in Wales produce a School Policy for Sex and Relationships Education which is made available to parents. This document represents the Sex and Relationships Education Policy for Whitmore High School. It is written in line with Welsh Government sex and relationships education in schools Circular No 019/2010.

RSE will be a mandatory requirement in the Curriculum for Wales for all learners from age 3 to 16 (“the Act”). This means that all learners must receive this education. There is no right to withdraw from RSE in the new curriculum. However, the new curriculum is being phased in, therefore, some pupils may still be withdrawn from RSE pending the new curriculum arrangements being rolled out to their school year.

The policy addresses legal requirements, national strategies and Welsh Assembly Government guidance such as:

- Education Act 1996
- Sexual Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2010-2015
- The requirements of the PSE Framework for 7-19 Year Olds

2. Aims

To support and help all pupils through their physical, emotional, oral and spiritual development by the implementation of the policy in the school Personal, Social and Careers Education Programme (PSE).

To inform all parties of the statutory requirements placed upon them.

To enable pupils to understand the importance of stable loving personal relationships, respect, love, care and the building of successful relationships with friendship groups and the wider community.

RSE is a positive and protective part of the Curriculum for Wales. It plays a central role in supporting learners’ rights to enjoy fulfilling, healthy and safe relationships throughout their lives.

3. Objectives

To help young people to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives.

To help pupils learn to respect themselves and others and to move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.

To prepare pupils for the opportunities and experiences of adult life.

To prepare pupils to develop considered attitudes, values and skills which influence the way they behave.

To enable pupils to gain knowledge and awareness of sex, sexuality and sexual health and to be aware of the benefits of delaying sexual activity.

RSE should enable learners to understand the importance of a stable, secure and loving environment for family life. In a diverse society learners will come from a variety of backgrounds and Welsh Assembly

The Government recognises that there are committed and supportive stable relationships outside of marriage.

Teachers should be sensitive and respect differences, ensuring that there is not stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances.

4. Implementation

In the school PSE programme there are given areas of study:

- Active Citizenship
- Health and Emotional Wellbeing
- Moral and Spiritual Development
- Preparing for lifelong learning
- Sustainable Development and global citizenship

The co-ordinator of the PSE programme is responsible for its planning and is directly responsible to an Assistant Head teacher. The PSE programme is taught by all teaching staff during tutorial throughout the school year. The team of teachers who deliver will be given the opportunity to regularly review and evaluate their work. Pupil Evaluation Sheets will also be used for feedback and sex education will be an agenda item for the School Council to contribute to. Senior staff assess teaching and learning. Sex Education is taught in Both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 during PSE days and tutorial.

It is essential that in Whitmore High School the pupils develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about sex and relationships. There are a number of teaching strategies that teachers have been encouraged to use including:

- Establishing 'ground rules' with their pupils,
- Using 'distancing techniques – role play, case studies
- Knowing how to deal with unexpected questions or comments from pupils.

- Using discussion and project learning methods and appropriate materials
- Encouraging reflection
- Using visitors from outside agencies and services

5. Specific Issues

The following issues may occur as part of sex education. Staff, parents and pupils need to understand the School's procedures.

a. Confidentiality and advice

Pupils will be made aware that some information cannot be confidential, and made to understand that if certain disclosures are made certain actions 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 or suspicion of possible abuse –

The School's Child Protection procedures will be invoked.
(see relevant policy)

- ii) Where appropriate, the school will always encourage pupils to talk with their parents but will also be mindful of All Wales procedures where pupils have a right to confidentiality. Any safeguarding concerns will be forwarded to the DSP and professional guidance will be sought if needed.

b. Family life

The value of family life is an important aspect, which will be approached largely through a consideration of the qualities and relationships between the group of people, with an emphasis on stability, respect, caring and support. The programme will reflect the diverse nature of families. Young people must recognise diversity and show respect for others regardless of their sexual orientation. Hence teachers should deal with matters of sexual orientation honestly, sensitively and in a non-discriminatory way.

- c. As part of the sex education programme issues of contraception, HIV/AIDS, sexual orientation, and abortion are addressed. Facts are presented in an objective and balanced way, with pupils being encouraged to consider attitudes and values. They will be made aware of the difference between fact, opinion and religious belief.

d. Complaints procedure

Any complaint about the sex education curriculum should be made to the Headteacher.

e. Parental partnership

Under the Education Act 1996 parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex Education programme. Parents wishing to exercise that right are asked to make a written request and are invited to make an appointment to meet the PSE coordinator to discuss the issues. (They are under no obligation to make an appointment). Once a child has been withdrawn he/she cannot take part in later sex education without parental approval. This is only valid until the roll out of the new curriculum, when RSE will be mandatory (see above).

6. Health Professionals/Outside Agencies

We work largely with a range of health professionals and relevant agencies to enhance delivery of RSE. These links complement the role of the teacher in delivering RSE. The Welsh Assembly Government has also developed a high quality school based counselling service that is independent, safe and accessible for all children and young people in Wales.

The role of the school based counsellor is to provide time, confidentiality and a safe place to encourage and help a young person to talk about issues that are affecting them and to help identify strategies that will help them to cope more effectively.

7. Monitoring and Review

- a. Sex education will be monitored by the Assistant Headteacher who line manages PSE, and the PSE co-ordinator.
- b. The full policy will be made available on request to all parents when their child enters the School.
- c. The Policy will be available to parents on the school website with dates of review included.

8. Dissemination of the policy.

The full policy is available on request to parents, the local authority, and ESTYN through PSE Co-ordinator.

Other linked policies:

- Anti-bullying
- Child Protection
- PSE