

BURGESS HILL SCHOOL

— *for girls* —

Senior School Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Approved by Board of Governors – This policy replaces the Sex Education Policy of 2002

Policy Statement

We believe that sex and relationship education is an educational entitlement of all pupils and is an integral part of the preparation for a happy, healthy, fulfilled and successful adult life. The aim of this policy is to communicate clearly to staff, parents, visitors and pupils the manner in which sex and relationship education will be delivered in this school. Our intention is to respect the full range of cultural social, moral and ethical values of our pupils and their parents.

Aims of sex and Relationship Education.

To help and support young people during their physical, emotional, spiritual and moral development and to assist them in learning to manage their emotions and relationships confidently, sensitively and responsibly. To respect themselves and others and to understand the benefits of delaying sexual activity.

To promote the ability to make informed decisions based on their personal values and to teach them to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

To promote an understanding of sex, sexuality and sexual health and to facilitate communication on sexual matters so that pupils develop educational skills they will need in the future as partners, parents/childminders.

Sex and Relationship Education Programme

This is co-ordinated by the Heads of Section who liaise with other relevant subject areas.

Most Sex Education is taught in Life Skills, Year 7 Science lessons and PSHE. Wherever Sex Education is delivered in PSHE it may be carried out by a specialist teacher and not necessarily the tutor. It is important that pupils receive their Sex Education in the wider context of relationships.

Methodology/Content

Information may be presented in a didactic way. A variety of resources and methods of presentation may be used. However, if young people are going to make wise, healthy choices about their behaviour they need to be given the opportunity to explore values and attitudes and use approaches that seek to develop skills, self-confidence and raise self-esteem. This is achieved more effectively by increasing pupil-centred learning methods. Every effort will be made to protect the privacy of individual students and appropriate use will be made of trained practitioners. Material such as videos and worksheets will be used not only to trigger discussions and promote learning but also to encourage reflection. Copies of such videos and materials will be available for parents to view on request. Young people from the community may be used as peer educators when appropriate.

Working with Parents

For education to be most effective we believe that it is crucial that school, parents and pupils work together. This is especially true of sex and relationship education.

Policy information is available to all parents on request. There will also be an opportunity for parents to familiarise themselves with any published resources. Under the Education Act 1996, Section 405, parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education programme. Parents wishing to exercise that right are asked to make an appointment to meet the Head of Section to discuss the issues, although they are under no obligation to do so. Provision will be made for any pupil withdrawn from sex education lessons to use the LRC for other studies.

Evaluation

Evaluation of sex and relationship education provision will be undertaken by the Heads of Section after pupil feedback at the end of each year. Feedback will be verbal or by questionnaire. We will undertake to recognise pupil involvement and views where appropriate. As part of the regular review process parents' views will be sought.

Review

This policy will undertake regular review after the annual evaluations, or after any changes to government legislation or revised sex and relationship education guidelines.

Advice and Support

Confidentiality and advice

Pupils will be made aware that some information cannot be held as confidential for health and legal reasons. The school's confidentiality policy offers guidelines and a support network for staff and pupils. Sensitive and appropriate support will be put into place.

Students who miss Sex and Relationship sessions. Every attempt will be made to provide a back up session for students who unavoidably miss a relevant session. In cases of long-term absence the Head of Section will consult with parents as to how to proceed.

Dissemination of Policy

The policy will be available to all staff in the Policy File in the staff room and on the Y-drive. All staff will be required to read it.

External contributors to the programme will be given a copy of the policy. Parents who are new to the school will be issued with a copy of the policy in the new girl's pack.

This Policy will be reviewed in March 2012