New Horizons
LEARNING CENTRE
Unlocking Potential
through Learning

Sex & Relationships Education Policy

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Signed by: Mr Andrew Mclean

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Contents

The Philosophy of the School	**3**
The Social, Ethnic and Religious Mix of the School	**3**
Special Needs Abilities of Pupils	**3**
The Special Needs Coordinator	**3**
Policy, Formation and Consultation Process	**3**
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY	**4**
Moral and Values Framework	**5**
CURRICULUM	**5**
Content Headings for School Sex and Relationships Education Programme	**5**
Equal Opportunities	**6**
CURRICULUM ORGANISATION	**6**
Who Will Teach It?	**6**
Training Provision	**6**
Methodology and Approach	**6**
Specific Classroom Arrangements	**7**
SPECIFIC ISSUES	**8**
Child Abuse/Safeguarding Procedures	**8**
Child Withdrawal Procedure	**8**
Complaints Procedure	**8**
Procedures for the Involvement of Health Professionals and Visitors	**9**

Introduction

The Philosophy of the School

The school's philosophy aims to provide a stimulating and caring environment in which each child may experience high standards of education and preparation for the future, working in partnership with parents and the local community. The Policy for Sex and Relationships Education is written in accordance with this philosophy.

The Social, Ethnic and Religious Mix of the School

The New Horizons Learning Centre aims to fulfil the educational needs of as wide a group of children as are represented in the local and school community. The children come from a varied cross-section of the broader county-wide community and represent different social, ethnic and religious values, beliefs and customs.

Special Needs Abilities of Pupils

All pupils have an EHCP under the designation of Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties, and some have additional needs such as ASD, ADHD and MLD, etc.

The Special Needs Coordinator

The Special Needs Coordinator (SENCO) will assist the Subject Leader for PSHE/RSE in the development of the school's policy concerning the welfare and educational needs of all children at the New Horizons Learning Centre especially in relation to the issues and curriculum offered within the Sex and Relationships Education programme of study. Advice will be taken from all appropriate sources and, where necessary, the policy will be adapted to meet each child's needs as an individual.

Policy, Formation and Consultation Process

The policy has been written following the DfE guidelines.

- To reassure children of their value and self-worth, including aspects of dignity, self-respect and self-restraint
- To nurture a responsible attitude towards personal relationships including aspects of mutual respect and care and to develop sensitivity towards the needs of others encompassing fidelity and loyalty
- To provide knowledge of loving relationships
- To provide knowledge of human reproductive processes
- To understand the choices involved in using contraception and the risks associated with various choices

- To inform children on matters of personal hygiene and related health issues
- To encourage exploration of values and moral issues taking into account physical and moral risks associated with certain behaviour
- To empower children to make informed choices about sex and relationships issues
- To provide knowledge, understanding and tolerance towards the various aspects of sexual orientation
- To educate against discrimination and prejudice
- To understand the complexities, truths and myths of sexual activity and sexually transmitted disease/infection

This Policy will also support the following school policies:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Racial Equality Policy
- School Behaviour Policy
- Statement of School Philosophy, Aims and Objectives
- The Health and Safety Policy

Moral and Values Framework

The Sex and Relationships Education Policy and delivery of lessons will be sensitive towards the established morals and values framework of all the major world religions, cultures (including 'minority' groups) and philosophies, including those of the families of our client group. In its implementation, it will draw from the practical experiences of those who represent the various religious and philosophical groups within the local community. The Sex and Relationships Education Policy will be complimentary to the moral, social and cultural values in the Religious Education Policy of the school.

Content Headings for a School Sex and Relationship Education Programme

Governors and teaching staff will take particular care to ensure that the teaching materials used will be of a very high quality and that they, and the aspects of the topics covered, will be appropriate to the needs and ages of the pupils at The New Horizons Learning Centre, within the context of moral considerations and the value of family life.

The content outline is as follows:

Family life	Information about many family patterns to include

	Single/married/divorced parents, extended families, Homosexual/lesbian parents and different religious, mixed race and cultural backgrounds
The human body	Biological information including that about sexual Organs and processes, as well as both physical and emotional sexual responses
Reproduction	Conception, contraception, pregnancy, birth, Child-care and parenthood
Human development	Childhood and ageing, puberty and adulthood, menstruation and menopause (to include hygiene)
Risks	Unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV and AIDS), information on how to resist unwanted sexual advances, sexual orientation and information on risky social and sexual behaviours

Equal Opportunities

In support of the Equal Opportunities policy all NHLC pupils regardless of age, ability, gender or race will have the same opportunities to benefit from the sex and relationships education resources and teaching methods.

Who Will Teach It?

The PSHE/SRE Subject Leader will teach the factual content. The Science teacher will deliver aspects in the area of Life and Living Processes in the Science curriculum and other members of staff from The New Horizons Learning Centre will answer direct questions where required and/or appropriate, and be aware of the Sex and Relationships Education Policy.

Training Provision

This will be provided as and where required through the school's Performance Management and CPD programmes.

Methodology and Approach

There will be a whole school approach – across all Key Stages. This subject will be taught in a cross-curricular way through some afternoon project groups, encompassing all of the elements within the National Curriculum, as well as expanding more broadly into human relationships, human and physical development and reproduction, risks of sexual activity and sexuality within PSHE/RSE and Science lessons.

Teachers will answer children's direct questions in an open and factual way.

Teachers will not enter into discussions about personal issues and lifestyles. Governors and teachers have agreed that teachers will answer all children's questions relating to sex and relationships education, or, if they do not feel equipped to do so themselves, to offer to refer the child onto a colleague who can help.

Specific Classroom Arrangements

All sex and relationships education will be taught in mixed sex classes, if there are co-educational groups in the school. Children will know that they are free to question further and discuss issues with their own or another teacher in a private context if they need to.

Curriculum Entitlement

Due to the cross-curricular nature of the subject, it will be discussed or taught as and when it arises through normal topic work. It will also be covered through discrete PSHE/RSE and some Science lessons, in addition to when a health professional is invited to address the children. Children with additional special educational needs (over and above that which is general within our SEMH environment) relating to sex and relationships education will have their needs addressed both within the class, and where appropriate, on a one-to-one basis. Any such measures will be discussed individually with parents or carers in advance where need is known.

Procedures for Reviewing the Effectiveness of the Programme

Topics will be reviewed weekly through short term plans, termly through medium term plans and annually through long term plans in the yearly overview. Staff and governors will review the Sex and Relationships Education Policy annually. Parents will be invited to comment at each review and will be notified of this.

Resources and Criteria Used for their Selection

All resources will be chosen by the Sex and Relationships Education Coordinator in consultation with teachers and governors. Advice will be taken from area advisers etc. Parents' comments will be taken into consideration.

Child Sex Abuse Procedure

The Safeguarding Procedures as laid down by the South Gloucestershire Council will be followed. All referrals, whatever their origin, must be taken seriously and must be considered with an open mind, which does not pre-judge the situation. The procedures adopted within the South Gloucestershire area for handling cases of neglect, physical, emotional, sexual abuse and failure to thrive involving children and young persons, are based on the principle that the interests and welfare of the child or young person are of paramount importance.

Confidentiality must not prevent action if the child is 'at risk'. Teachers will listen sympathetically to anything a child tells them in confidence. However, if a teacher

feels that a child is at risk then the appropriate people will be contacted in accordance with the above Safeguarding Procedures, a copy of which is available for parents in school.

In addition to this please see the school's policy on Safeguarding.

Child Withdrawal Procedure

Sex and Relationships Education at The New Horizons Learning Centre is to be taught across the curriculum and it will not be possible to separate out all the Sex and Relationships Education lessons. There will however, be specific lessons and sessions when Health Professionals will be invited to address the children in the presence of the class teacher. Notification will always be sent to parents in advance of such lessons. If, as a parent, it is felt necessary to withdraw a child parents/carers should arrange to come to school and discuss their concerns with the Headteacher.

In the event of a child being withdrawn from a lesson that child must stay in school and will be assigned to another class until the sex and relationships education lesson is over.

Complaints Procedure

If you have any cause for concern about the Sex and Relationships Education Policy please come into school to resolve the problem, as soon as possible, with the Headteacher and staff. In the unlikely event that the concern cannot be dealt with, the Governors and then the LA can be contacted.

Procedures for the Involvement of Health Professionals and Visitors

All visiting Health Professionals and other visitors will only be involved in the implementation of the Sex and Relationships Education Policy after detailed consultation concerning lesson content and method of teaching. The class teacher will remain in the lesson throughout. All persons entering the school to work with pupils have to undertake and pass a detailed Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS).