

Policy No. 14
ACORN SCHOOL
SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

Acorn school educates secondary age Students who are part of Phoenix Care homes. They are mostly withdrawn from mainstream schooling for a variety of reasons including exclusion, persistent absence or wide ranging emotional reasons. The majority have a history of underachievement and often have low self esteem. Several factors may have led them to be vulnerable. They are more likely to be exposed to high risk situations and do not always have a support network. They may have had a high proportion of negative experiences.

SRE, Citizenship and PSHE

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is part of the Personal, Social and Health Education, and citizenship curriculum. There are three main aims relevant to SRE:

- The acquisition of accessible, relevant and age appropriate information.
- Clarification and development of attitudes and values that support self esteem and are positive to health and well being.
- The development of personal and social skills to enable emotional development and interaction with others as well as making positive health choices and actively participating in society.

Defining SRE

Effective SRE provides young people with the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to make informed, sensitive decisions about their relationships with self and others. SRE is learning about sex, sexuality, emotions, relationships and sexual health. It involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes. SRE can teach students to:

- Value themselves and others, physically, emotionally and sexually
- Form positive and emotionally nurturing/rewarding relationships
- Develop the confidence to assert their needs
- Make informed choices
- Be clear about the facts concerning sex (for example contraception and STIs)
- Develop the assertiveness to look after themselves and others, both emotionally and physically

SRE provides an important opportunity to develop emotional literacy and self confidence. With a constant emphasis on developing meaningful relationships based on respect, the creation of quality relationships is central to the life of Acorn school.

Curriculum Delivery

Students receive tuition in PSHE and Citizenship.

Topics include;

- Friendship
- Relationships
- Puberty
- Reproduction and birth
- Appropriate and inappropriate physical contact
- Contraception
- Sexually transmitted infections

Life skills such as handling money and the world of work are a priority focus in Year 11.

Employees have a professional responsibility to ensure that their own views do not influence the teaching negatively.

Employees also need to be aware that this may be a difficult subject for some students, and that any disclosures need to be responded to as set out in the child protection policy. Employees need to ensure that any therapeutic needs are responded to by linking with the care home, social workers and any professionals. The LAC nurse, is available for consultation and advice.