

Queensmill School

Policy on Sex and Relationship Education

Aims

At Queensmill we aim to prepare children for the physical changes in their own bodies and to help them to understand their emotions and those of others to the best of their individual understanding and ability. We aim to develop their concept of “right” and “wrong” through real life contexts, with a strong emphasis on the positive, and understanding how to cope with life and how to behave. We aim to help children see themselves as part of their family, as part of their peer group, as part of their school and local community and help them to identify who they can turn to for help when needed. Where appropriate, we teach them about loving adult relationships. We believe that pupils are entitled to information that will enable them to make informed choices and express opinions and thoughts. We try to help them to understand their own autism if possible and to manage their own autistic behaviours. We always aim to raise their confidence and self-esteem. In the Post 16 classrooms students are encouraged and supported to build social skills and professional relationship skills in real life environments such as community based activities, school trips, overnights, and work experiences.

Implementation

Much of our SRE work will be implicit throughout the curriculum and throughout the school in work on body awareness, emotional literacy and moral codes, as well as through IEP/PLP targets. Some direct teaching will be included in the PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship), RE (Religious Education) and PE (Physical Education) curricula. Where Sex Education is taught, usually for students aged 14 and up, parents/carers are made aware, are sent copies of work used, and can ask any questions about it in order to work in partnership with the school and feel supported by the school. Queensmill has built a partnership with Image in Action, a Sex and Relationships education organisation that is a member of the Sex Education Forum at the National Children’s Bureau and the Council for Disabled Children. Image in Action works with students in small groups and 1:1. Image in Action gives feedback to parents as well as holds a forum for parents to discuss specific issues. Pupils are taught about the need for privacy, personal space and public vs private. All work at Queensmill is taught in a way that takes account of pupils’ individual levels of understanding. The school achieved Healthy Schools’ Status in summer 06, part of which was our practice in teaching SRE.

Queensmill School is in the process of introducing SoSafe! a new tool for teaching autistic young-people about sex and relationships and for helping them reliably communicate about relationships. This programme is focused on secondary students and will be used across the main-school site and inclusion units. Training for staff is due to commence in February with use of the programme expected shortly after.

Confidentiality

Staff teach SRE in a sensitive manner. Our Child Protection Policy describes how we would respond if a pupil made a reference to being involved in any sexual activity.

Monitoring

This policy is monitored by the SMT and the PSHCE Subject Leader.

Summer 2014

Policy reviewed – Oct 2017

Reviewed by *F.Adu*.....

Date for next review – October 2018