



CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION (SRE) POLICY

CONTEXT

The Governing Body is committed to securing and maintaining a Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) programme for students which reflects the belief that the college has a responsibility to provide high quality sex education in the context of caring relationships.

Callington Community College is a fully comprehensive maintained co-educational county college for students aged 11 to 18 years, and has a specialist Sports College status. Students come to the college from rural areas of East Cornwall and reflect the wide social and limited ethnic and religious population. The College has achieved Healthy College status and continues to improve provision to address the National Standards.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS STATEMENT - SUMMER 2002

This document has been updated and reviews through the following process:

1. Programme of study update to reflect National Curriculum 2000 guidance.
2. Change in post-holder for PSHE Co-ordination.
3. Discussion within Senior Management.
4. Commissioning external independent advice.
5. Discussion with staff.
6. Consulting with students, parents and governors.
7. Discussion with the governing body.

This policy will be reviewed in Summer term 2004.

AIMS

Callington Community College believes that sex education is an educational entitlement of all students and an integral part of each child's emergence into adulthood.

We aim to provide opportunities to establish skills, knowledge and attitudes which enable individuals to make health and informed personal choices through the following strategies:

- promoting an understanding of sex in the context of caring relationships;
- contextualising the biological sex education in National Curriculum Science Orders on human reproduction and life-cycle;

- exploring the social context in which sexual relationships occur;
- promoting understanding that well-managed sexuality is fundamental to personal happiness and contributes fundamentally to the formation of successful and stable relationships;
- encouraging personal responsibility in forms of behaviour;
- encouraging positive levels of self-esteem;
- encouraging respect and consideration for others;
- providing support and information for young people and their parents;
- communicating clearly to staff, parents, students and visitors the manner in which sex education will be delivered at our college.

MANAGEMENT

Sex and Relationships Education is the responsibility of the Personal, Social and Health Education Co-ordinator in liaison with the Head of Science. Whilst the core programme is taught through the PSHE timetable, the college expects all members of staff to implement the spirit of the policy and recognises the value of cross-curricular work in developing skills and attitudes across the National Curriculum.

The PSHE Co-ordinator is responsible for the overall planning, implementation and review of the programme of study for SRE. It is expected that departmental evaluation in SRE will lead to effective continuing improvement in practice.

The PSHE Co-ordinator will be responsible for the securing appropriate continuing professional development for any personnel involved in teaching SRE.

SRE will be monitored by the Curriculum Head and the PSHE Co-ordinator.

An annual report will be made to the governors and a summary included in their annual report to parents.

A member of the Governing Body will be nominated to link with PSHE in order to keep the Governing Body informed of practice and developments in SRE.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

A variety of teaching styles are used to provide all students with a range of learning opportunities to explore the knowledge, skills and attitudes in their preferred learning styles.

Students will usually be taught in groups which are mixed by gender and ability within their year group.

The programme of study will provide SRE in each academic year and will endeavour to secure effective continuity and progression in learning across the college.

DEALING WITH SENSITIVE ISSUES

Teachers need to be sure that they are aware of issues that may arise out of teaching and learning about SRE. The following are protocols for discussion-based lessons with students:

- no one (teacher or student) will have to answer a personal question;
- no one will be forced to take part in a discussion;
- only the correct names for the body parts will be used;
- meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way; and
- teachers may use their discretion in responding to questions and may say that the appropriate person to answer that question is the parent.

Where a member of staff is concerned that a child protection issue is arising it is his/her responsibility to follow the college's policy in this matter to the letter.

VISITORS CONTRIBUTING TO SRE

From time to time as part of a planned module of work the college will invite in local experts on issues relating to SRE as well as using health and other professionals associated with the college. All college associate health and other professional and visitors will be asked to conform to the following:

- visitors contributing to SRE will do so at the invitation of the college and will be qualified to make an appropriate contribution;
- visitors must agree with the aims of the college in delivering its policy on SRE;
- when in class visitors will be supervised by a teacher, who will be present at all times;
- visitors will follow the college's child protection procedures if a disclosure occurs within the classroom setting;
- visitors will know and understand where the contribution fits into the college's programme for SRE and PSHE.

It is clear from Government guidelines that when not in a classroom context these professionals are covered by their own professional codes of conduct.

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Curriculum content

(Education Act 1996; National Curriculum Guidance 5; Health Education 1990; National Curriculum Science Orders; National Curriculum Guidance for PSHE; Learning and Skills Act 2000)

Knowledge and understanding:

- friendship and love
- reproduction
- social structures
- support agencies
- sexually transmitted diseases
- early parenting
- family life and relationships
- human sexuality
- the law
- contraception
- safer sex
- human life cycle
- emotional health
- personal safety
- HIV/AIDS
- gender issues

Skills:

- communication
- assertiveness
- recognising and using opportunities
- decision-making
- working with others
- relationship building

Attitudes and values:

- self worth and self-esteem
- responsibility
- sexual attitudes and behaviour
- valuing and respecting others
- controversial issues
- loss and change
- personal (moral) values
- stereotyping

National Curriculum 2000 Science

- human growth and reproduction
- adolescence
- virus
- fertilisation
- genetics
- gestation
- hormones

CONFIDENTIALITY AND ADVICE

It is expected that all members of staff are mindful of the need to provide students with accurate, high quality information which is judged to be age-appropriate and is given to enable healthy personal choices.

It is expected that all members of staff are mindful of the value of family life and make appropriate emphasis on stability, respect, caring and support.

Where the controversial issues of contraception, HIV/AIDS, sexuality and abortion are addressed in college the facts must be presented in an objective and balanced manner which encourages students to consider their attitudes and values. They must be made aware of the difference between fact, opinion and religious belief.

It is expected that issues of confidentiality will be addressed with students in establishing appropriate and respectful dynamics in class.

It is expected that the limits of confidentiality and implied duties of care will be made clear to students.

In circumstances where there is suspicion of possible abuse, or where there is disclosure the college's Child Protection procedures will be evoked. Staff must observe the duty of confidentiality within the context of the Child Protection policy.

All students will be offered sensitive and appropriate support wherever the need is identified.

Disclosure of pregnancy or suspected pregnancy must be referred to the Designated Child Protection Officer for further action. The college will always encourage the student to talk to a parent/s themselves, or be offered assistance in managing this. Once it is known that parents have been told, responsibility then lies with the parents. If the student refuses to tell a parent then the Child Protection Officer will inform the Headteacher and take advice from a health professional about informing parents.

SERVICES TO YOUNG PEOPLE PROVIDED BY THE COLLEGE

The college provides services for its young people. These services are provided by health and other professionals attached to the college in the Teenage Information and Advice Centre (TICTAC). Medical advice is given by health professionals. Staff who assist at the centre in a range of capacities include youth workers, counsellors and volunteers.

The TICTAC centre aims to provide to the students of the college a confidential, easily accessible gateway to health services. Support and advice is available concerning all aspects of health, including sexual health.

TICTAC personnel operate under the guidelines of confidentiality issued by the Royal College of General Medical Services Committee and the Health Education Authority.

PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP

Parents will also be informed when SRE is going to be delivered in college to their child via the college's newsletter with an invitation to support the work being done by discussing issues at home.

In accordance with Section 405 of The Education Act (1996) the college acknowledges that a parent has the right to request that their son or daughter may be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education at the college, except in so far as such education is comprised in the National Curriculum. Where this is the case the child will be excused accordingly until the request is withdrawn.

A parent wishing to exercise the right of withdrawal is asked to contact the college's Personal, Social and Health Education Co-ordinator to discuss the issues, though they are not obliged to do this. The college will keep a register of the name of any student(s) who is formally withdrawn from sex education.

POLICY DISSEMINATION

In accordance with Section 404(1) of The Education Act (1996) this policy will be available free of charge to parents of students registered at the college on enquiry at the college office.

The full policy will be made available to all parents when their child enters the college.

There will be an SRE policy briefing in the induction programme for all teaching and non-teaching staff joining the college.

LINK TO OTHER POLICIES

This policy should be read and implemented with reference to the following policies:

- Equality of opportunity
- Race equality
- Child protection
- Anti-bullying
- Drug education and related incidents.

REFERENCES

Department for Education and Employment 1996
Education Act
The Stationery Office

Department of Health 1989
Children Act
The Stationery Office

Department of Health 1999
Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation
The Stationery Office

National Curriculum Guidance 5 1990
Health Education
National Curriculum Council

Cornwall County Council LEA
SRE policy guidance

Jenks, J and Plant, S 1998
PASSPORT: Framework for PSE
Calouste Guilbenkian Foundation

QCA/DfEE 1999
The National Curriculum for England
QCA

Learning and Skills Act 2000

The Social Inclusion Unit 1999
Teenage Pregnancy
The Stationery Office