

S12 SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

Last Reviewed: July 2009
Next Review: July 2010
Responsible: A. Hemmings

I. BACKGROUND AND LEGAL POSITION

The Education Reform Act (1988) requires that:

'All Schools must provide a balanced and broadly based curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and in society.' (E.R.A. 1988)

Sex and Relationships Education was further clarified in the 1993 Act requiring all schools from September 1994 to include specific *Sex Education*, which includes teaching about HIV and AIDs along with that of other sexually transmitted diseases. Governors are required to make available to parents, on request, their written policy on Sex and Relationships Education.

2. SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

- 2.1. Sex and Relationships Education is a part of the Personal, Social Health and Citizenship Education basic curriculum.
- 2.2. Science as a core National Curriculum subject has statutory units on human reproduction and the physical changes, which take place during adolescence.
- 2.3. PSHCE looks at areas of emotional change as well as at choice and responsibility. Content has been selected with regard to what is appropriate to each age group and includes:
 - Family and friendship;
 - Puberty;
 - Peer/society pressure for sex;
 - Contraception and responsibility;
 - STD's including HIV and AIDs;
 - Education for parenthood.
- 2.4. In line with the statutory Citizenship specification, Sex and Relationships Education is set within the context of lasting serious relationships and the importance of family life which most students will interpret as consisting of a mother and a father, but recognising that many of our students are from other sorts of families.

3. WITHDRAWAL FROM SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

- 3.1. Parents have the right under the Education Act to withdraw their children from part or all of Sex and Relationships Education. This does not include the statutory units taught in Science. It is always regretted when parents uphold this right and we are pleased that the Government is proposing, within the new Citizenship specifications, to make an education resource pack available for parents who want to provide sex education within their own family.
- 3.2. Parents who want to withdraw their children should contact the PSHCE coordinator to discuss their concerns and to look at ways the Academy can support the family in this area.