

THE COTTESLOE SCHOOL

SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

The Sex and Relationship Policy has been developed in accordance with the revised National Curriculum published in September 1999 to take account of the need for guidance arising out of the new Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) framework and the Social Exclusion Unit report on teenage pregnancy.

The governors have approved a programme of sex and relationship education throughout the school, in consultation with parents and the wider community, to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development.

Every student will have the opportunity to follow a Sex and Relationship Education programme, within the PSHCE framework, to help them learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.

Sex and Relationship Education is provided in addition to the National Science Curriculum topics to develop self-esteem and responsibility for the consequences of one's actions.

The students will be provided with up-to-date information about attitudes and values, personal and social skills and knowledge and understanding.

The following themes will be addressed in a sensitive way, with special consideration given to the age and maturity of the student:

Attitudes and values

- The importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations;
- Value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children;
- The value of respect, love and care;
- Exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas; and
- Developing critical thinking as part decision-making.

Personal and social skills

- Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- Developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- Learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice;
- Developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- Managing conflict; and
- Learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

Knowledge and understanding

- Learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- Understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- Contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services;
- The reasons for delaying sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such delay; and
- The avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

The programme is structured in such a way to develop and encourage a positive regard for moral and social issues and the value of family life.

Personal beliefs and attitudes of teachers will not influence the teaching of sex and relationship education within the PSHCE framework. Teaching materials used are in accordance with the PSHCE framework and the law.

Sex and Relationship Education is monitored and evaluated by Subject Review and School Council.

Please refer to the CODE OF CONFIDENTIALITY
CHILD PROTECTION

The right of withdrawal

Parents have a right to withdraw their children from all parts of the school's programme of sex and relationship education **other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order**

May 2006