

# THE GILLFORD CENTRE

## SEX AND RELATIONSHIP POLICY

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This policy is informed by the Education Act 1996, government guidelines on Sex and Relationship Education published in 2000 and relevant legislative requirements.
- 1.2 The Headteacher will oversee the practice in school; co-ordinate the provision offered through discreet subject areas and through the PSHCE programme. Therefore this policy should be read in conjunction with the Citizenship and PSHCE Policy for the Gillford Centre.
- 1.3 The Gillford Centre's Induction will also advise parents/carers of their right to withdraw their child from parts of SRE not required by the National Curriculum. The Head Teacher will be the point of contact for such a request and, should the need arise, ensure alternate adequate education provision for the student concerned.
- 1.4 The Management Committee will respect individual teachers' requests to withdraw from the teaching of sex education components of the SRE programme.
- 1.5 Teaching staff choosing to use outside speakers to make specific inputs to the agreed programme of SRE will assure themselves of the integrity and professional qualifications of the speaker and be responsible for informing the speaker of the Values Framework of this policy.
- 1.6 Teachers will ensure that inappropriate images or unexplained explicit material will not be used and that young people are protected from accessing unsuitable materials on the internet.
- 1.7 This policy should be considered alongside other school policies, in particular those related to anti-bullying, Behaviour, Curriculum, Equal Opportunities and Special Needs.

### 2.0 AIMS

- 2.1. In broad terms SRE at the Gillford Centre is designed to help young people make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives.
- 2.2 SRE will aim to support our students through the process of their physical, emotional and moral development so that they learn to respect themselves and others and acquire skills, knowledge and understanding to live confident, healthy and independent lives.
- 2.3 We will seek to ensure that students learn the significance of marriage and stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society; understand human sexuality; learn the arguments for delaying sexual activity; and be given information about organisations from which they can obtain advice on sexual health.
- 2.4 As they develop, young people have a growing interest in and understanding of, many social and moral issues. They have a natural curiosity about themselves – their bodies, their feelings, their relationships. They have a need to explore the meanings and implications of their emerging sexuality and the related physical and emotional changes they experience. Young people express

the view that their sex education is too little, too late and too biological and does not address the broader emotional, moral or social issues. (Allen I - 1987)

2.5 At The Gillford Centre sex and relationship education is taken to mean:  
“...lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity...”  
(SRE Guidance July 2000)

2.6 The Sex Education component of our SRE provision will help individuals to make wise choices and decisions about their personal behaviour, their bodies, sexuality and feelings. There will be an active encouragement to consider the feelings of others particularly in relation to stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care.

2.7 In our teaching about sex, sexuality and sexual health there will be no active promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity.

2.8 To inform students of those aspects of the law currently relating to sexual behaviour.

### 3.0 VALUES FRAMEWORK

3.1 Whilst we recognise that the main responsibility of sex education rests with parents, the Gillford Centre will endeavor to offer complementary teaching. Staff will be sensitive to the views of parents and students.

3.2 Sex education provided by The Gillford Centre will reflect the law on sexual behaviour.

3.3 The content and organisation of sex education will take particular account of the general aim to develop in students “qualities of personal responsibility, consideration, courtesy, tolerance and respect in their relationships with each other.”

3.4 The Gillford Centre’s programme of sex education, in offering balanced and factual information, will be taught in the context of caring and loving relationships.

3.5 Along with parents the school will actively promote students’ understanding of the values of responsibility, sensitivity and loyalty and encourage students to understand the importance of recognising the need for dignity and self-respect in others.

3.6 The Gillford Centre will aim to make its contribution in preparing students for their future responsibilities as caring and responsible partners and parents.

### 4.0 CONTENT OF THE SRE PROGRAMME

The following topics may be taught within the Science, PSHCE and Preparation for Working Life programmes of study. This integrated approach reflects the Gillford Centre’s thinking on our students’ general personal and social education.

4.1 The three main elements covered will revolve around:

- Attitudes and values
- Personal and social skills
- Knowledge and understanding

- 4.2 Attitudes and Values
- Individual conscience
  - Moral considerations
  - Family Life
  - Marriage and stable relationships
  - Nurture of children
  - Respect, love and care
  - Moral dilemmas
  - Critical thinking
- 4.3 Personal and Social Skills
- Managing emotions and relationships
  - Developing self-respect and empathy
  - Understanding of difference
  - Absence of prejudice
  - Appreciation of consequences of choices made
  - Avoidance of exploitation and abuse
- 4.4 Knowledge and Understanding
- Physical development
  - Human sexuality
  - Reproduction
  - Sexual health
  - Emotions
  - Relationships
  - Contraception
  - Support services
  - Reasons for delaying sexual activity
  - Avoidance of unplanned pregnancy
- 4.5 Our programme will include education about HIV, aids and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- 4.6 Questions that young people ask are treated seriously and sensitively, responding appropriately to the needs of the pupils and using appropriate language. The teacher's personal knowledge and understanding of the young person will be a guide. Proper consideration needs to be given to religious and cultural factors and to the wishes of the parents. All teachers involved in the delivery of SRE will be made aware of the Social Exclusion Report on Teenage Pregnancy and the role of SRE in reducing the incidence of teenage pregnancies.
- 4.7 Areas covered will include:
- Sexually transmitted diseases
  - HIV/Aids
  - Contraception
  - Abortion
  - Menstruation
  - Puberty
  - Changing Bodies
- 5.0 ORGANISATION OF SEX EDUCATION
- 5.1 The Headteacher will have responsibility for the oversight of the planning and delivery of The Gillford Centre's programme of SRE.
- 5.2 Materials used in The Gillford Centre to deliver this subject area will be in accordance with the PSHCE policy statement and will be appropriate to the age and the religious and cultural background of the pupils concerned.

- 5.3 The Headteacher will ensure that funds are available to support agreed staff training.
- 5.4 All staff employed at The Gillford Centre will, through personal example and their upholding of the school's overall aims, actively promote the relationships aspect of this policy.
- 5.5 Although Sex Education lessons will normally be organised in mixed groups, teachers may use their discretion to decide when it is more appropriate for students to be in single sex groups.
- 5.6 Sex Education will be an entitlement for all students unless parents exercise the right to withdraw them.
- 5.7 The content and materials used will be reviewed regularly, as part of scheduled PSHCE and subject reviews.

6.0 DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY

- 6.1 A summary of this policy will be available on The Gillford Centre website.
- 6.2 A copy of the full Policy Statement will be available, on request, to any current or prospective parent.
- 6.3 A copy of the full policy statement will be available to all members of staff.

7.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE POLICY

- 7.1 The Headteacher will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of this policy.

Adopted by the Management Committee .....

Date of next review: .....