

MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL
SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS
POLICY

INIITAL APPROVAL	2009
REVIEW DATE	May 2010 & May 2011 Updated 2014

Rationale

Maiden Erlegh School is an inclusive school and so we believe that all members of our community are of equal worth. At Maiden Erlegh School our aim is that everyone:

- is respected and respects others
- takes part in the life of the school
- achieves to their potential
- develops skills essential to life
- can exercise choice

These aims underpin this policy which is also key to promoting students' spiritual moral, social and cultural development.

The importance of sexual relationships in life is such that sex education must play a crucial part in preparing young people for their future lives as adults and parents.

We recognise the important role of family, friends, media, advertising, community support groups and previous educational experiences on the development of people's physical and mental well-being.

The School's Sex and Relationship (SRE) Policy has been drawn up with reference to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DFES 2000 and the QCA curriculum guidance 2008/9.

Values

SRE does not attempt to prescribe values and standards on students; the Governors believe that these come primarily from the home, but they recognise that the school will inevitably influence how students determine their values and standards and exercise their responsibilities in life.

At Maiden Erlegh School we believe that SRE is about students understanding the importance of stable and committed relationships based on mutual respect and love, including marriage, and the importance of family life.

It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health; but is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity. As such, issues such as gender, sexual identity, special needs cultural and religious diversity will be provided for.

Delivery of SRE

All students have the opportunity to participate in a sex and relationships education programme which is delivered through the National Curriculum (Science), RE and PSHE/PSD lessons in Years 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13.

PSHE/PSD lessons will students by preparing them for an adult life in which they can:

- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour
- be aware of their sexuality, and understand and respect all human sexuality
- have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and to respect individual conscience, and the skills to judge what kind of relationships they want
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity

- understand the consequences of their actions and how to behave responsibly within sexual and other social relationships
- communicate effectively; have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from unintended/unwanted conceptions, and sexually transmitted infections including HIV
- understand the reasons for having safe sex
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others
- avoid being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex
- access confidential sexual health advice, support and if necessary treatment
- know how the law applies to sexual relationships

SRE is taught by a team of committed teachers who meet regularly to review the programme and to update resources. The teaching staff concerned with the delivery of sex education empathise with the policy, have a sympathetic approach and the necessary personal skills.

It is the responsibility of teachers to:

- Plan and deliver sex and relationships education according to the school's written policy.
- Give information about appropriate health professionals or clinics to visit.
- Avoid individual advice regarding any aspect of sexual health including contraception.
- Not to guarantee complete, unconditional confidentiality.
- Follow the school's procedures in suspected cases of abuse.

The governing body, parents and students are encouraged to play a part in ensuring that SRE addresses the needs of the students and parents, as well as community health priorities. We work closely with health and other professionals to provide training for staff, access to resources and deliver bespoke sessions for students.

Right of withdrawal

Governors recognise the importance of all students' participation in SRE. Parents may, however, exercise a right of withdrawal from these lessons if the content is not part of the national curriculum (Section 405 of the Education Act 1996). This is explained to them in a letter outlining the SRE course for their child's year group.

Where parents wish to exercise their right to withdraw their child from SRE, they should inform the Headteacher in writing.

Monitoring

Monitoring and evaluation of the programme is undertaken by the Senior Leadership Group and Mrs A Morgan, Assistant Headteacher.

ANNEX 1: OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DELIVERY OF SRE
(Updated January 2014)

NATIONAL CURRICULUM SCIENCE

The menstrual cycle.

The physical aspects of animal reproduction (including human reproduction).

RE/PSHE

Y7

Puberty- the physical and emotional implications

Y9

What is a healthy relationship?

How will I know if I am ready?

STIs: The Facts

Contraception & Protection

Teen Pregnancy

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Y11

Safe sex: How to make choices about contraception

Why only “yes” means yes

Sex and alcohol: a dangerous pairing

How do you manage relationship breakdowns?

Dating in the 21st Century: Can you be safe online?

Dating in the 21st Century: issues debated

Is sex portrayed accurately in the media?

What makes a relationship healthy or unhealthy