



**SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS
POLICY**

HEATON SCHOOL

Heaton School Policy Record

**Sex and Relationships Policy Agreed at:
Teaching & Learning Committee 20.11.18**

Signed and Approved by:

Headteacher ----- (Signature)

----- (Name)

----- (Date)

Chair of Committee----- (Signature)

----- (Name)

----- (Date)

To Be Reviewed: Autumn 2020

Designated person: J Curtis, Headteacher

If you require this document in a different format or require further guidance and advice regarding the use or interpretation of this document please contact SHR First on 0161-474-4777.

Heaton School Sex and Relationship Policy Statement

Description of School

Heaton School is a Secondary Special School for students from 11 – 19 years with severe learning difficulties, PMLD and ASD. Some students have multiple disabilities including sensory impairments and need a high level of support. The school is divided into three departments; KS3, KS4 and Post 16. The catchment area for the school covers the whole of Stockport and students join the school usually at year 7. There are strong links with the local and wider community and parents are closely involved in their child's educational progress and are supportive of social events. Students come from varied family and ethnic backgrounds. In relation to mainstream schools a larger proportion of the cohort is often in the CAF/TAC process with a number of LAC students – records maintained within school office.

Description of Formation and Consultation Process

The people involved:

- The Assistant Headteacher / P.S.H.E. Co-ordinator
- Heaton School staff including teachers and classroom assistants
- SALT
- Parents
- School Nurse

Aims and Objectives of Heaton School Sex and Relationship Curriculum.

To enable students to make informed choices and decisions.

- To develop skills enabling students to protect themselves.
- To promote an awareness of issues relating to family planning.
- To give “facts” not “myths”.
- To promote self-awareness.
- To develop self-esteem and confidence
- To explore emotions and feelings.
- To develop an understanding that everyone has feelings.
- To encourage socially appropriate behaviour.
- To give an opportunity for discussion in a safe forum.
- To help the transition from child – adolescent – adult.
- To enable students to feel confident in expressing their sexuality.

Heaton School believes that all students have rights which may include responsibilities and entitlement to personal, social and health education. This entitlement is the shared responsibility of parents and professionals. Sex education in the school will contribute to the requirement of the Education Reform Act 1988 that the school curriculum should be one which:

- a) Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils in school and in society and

- b) Prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

The school will work towards this aim in partnership with parents, carers and other professionals.

Moral and Values Framework

The sex education programme will reflect the school ethos and demonstrate and encourage the following values:

- Respect for self.
- Respect for others.
- Students' responsibility for their own actions.
- Responsibility within family, friends, school and wider community.

Content Headings for School Sex and Relationship Education Programme

The sex and relationships education programme will provide information, which is relevant and appropriate to the age and individual needs and abilities of the students.

The development of communication and social skills will play a large part in the Sex and Relationship Education Curriculum.

The exploration and clarification of values and attitudes will be encouraged.

Sex and Relationship Education will be taught in the context of relationships.

The programme will be delivered using a rolling programme and areas will be re-visited at regular intervals throughout the students' careers.

The physical self.

Emotions.

Relationships.

Social skills.

Choices and consequences.

Personal Health and Safety.

Students with profound and multiple learning difficulties will have access to some of the topics above, either at the concrete or sensory experience level.

N.B. The biological elements of sex and relationship education will be delivered through Science National Curriculum and also through P.S.H.E. modules.

Organisation of School Sex and Relationship Education

Co-ordination.

Sex education is currently co-ordinated by the P.S.H.E. coordinator

Delivery

- In discrete sessions covering specific topics.
- Across the curriculum: in drama, science topics etc.
- On an individual basis.

Teaching Methods

The Sex and Relationship Education Curriculum will be delivered in appropriate groups, according to ability, need, gender etc. Active learning methods, which involve the students' full participation, will be used. Lessons will take place in a "safe" environment, i.e. one that is familiar, secure and provides continuity from week to week. Students will be taught the "ground rules" concerning group discussion and made aware of issues of confidentiality. Sessions will be teacher directed but student led, with careful attention to the language used.

Resources

The school uses a range of materials including Interactive Whiteboards to assist in the delivery of the curriculum. Parents are welcome to inspect resources on request.

Who will teach it.

Sex education is taught by specific class teachers supported at times by the School nursing service.

Teaching assistants also support teachers in P.S.H.E. sessions and have an involvement in the delivery of sensory curriculum.

The school would also aim to involve, in consultation, the following where appropriate:

- Parents.
- Health professionals.
- Children's Community Learning Disability Team.
- Social Care
- CYPD
- Advocates.

Evaluation of the Programme.

Specific Issues Statements

- The delivery of sex education at Heaton School is set in the wider context of Personal, Social and Health Education. Although most students will be involved in discrete sessions once a week, opportunities will be sought and targeted across the whole curriculum. This is particularly significant in the development of social skills and appropriate behaviour. The cultivation of high self-esteem in students must be seen as central to any work we carry out in this area.
- The school is committed to working with parents. The Sex Education Policy is available for parents to look at in school and the teacher will inform parents in advance of the content of sessions. Parents are welcome to contact school to discuss specific issues with staff.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex and Relationship education provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum. DFE 2014

Child Protection

The school has a policy on Child Protection / Safeguarding and procedures are set out in the school brochure.

Confidentiality

As a general rule a student's confidentiality will be maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. Any concerns re child protection will be passed to the Child Protection designated teacher. The student concerned will be reassured that their best interests will be safeguarded and they will be informed that their confidentiality is being breached and given the reasons why. The child will be supported throughout the process.

Answering Difficult Questions

Sometimes an individual student will ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. Questions do not have to be answered directly and may be addressed individually later. Individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in these situations and refer to the School Nurse, Head teacher or Deputy if they are concerned.

Additional Resources

There are various people who can resource and support school based sex education. Special schools are fortunate in having a multi-professional approach and the school has access to a range of people who may have specialist skills. This should be capitalised on.

Equal Opportunities

Heaton School supports Stockport's policy on equal opportunities and is committed to providing all students with a service, which ensures freedom from discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, religion or disability.

Dissemination of Policy

A copy will be available on request.