

SEX EDUCATION POLICY

AIMS

Cromwell Community College believes that sex education is an entitlement of all pupils and an integral part of each pupil's growth into adulthood.

We aim:

- to encourage personal responsibility in all forms of behaviour;
- to build self-esteem;
- to encourage respect and consideration for others;
- to provide support and information for our young people and their parents.

The aim of this policy is to communicate clearly to staff, parents, visitors and pupils the manner in which sex education will be delivered in this college.

CONTENT

Sex Education provides knowledge and encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes which will allow pupils to manage their lives in a responsible and healthy way.

Knowledge and Information

This work builds on the Key Stage 2 curriculum.

Key Stage 3 – human reproduction and changes through puberty, personal safety, friendship and love, relationships and family life, emotional developments, gender issues, conception, contraception, emergency contraception and abortion, sexually-transmitted infections, abstinence, safe sex, teenage pregnancy, sex - the law and child protection, support agencies.

Key Stage 4 – each year knowledge is reinforced and additional information presented. Sexually-transmitted infections, HIV and Aids, testicular cancer, sexual lifestyles, stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination, different faiths and cultures. Year 11 pupils may complete a parenting course.

Values and Beliefs

As well as knowledge and information pupils are encouraged to consider the importance of the following values :

- respect for themselves and for others;
- understanding of and sensitivity towards the needs and views of others;
- responsibility for their own actions;
- responsibility towards College, their family and the wider community.

Skills and Abilities

Pupils will be helped to develop the following skills:

- communication, including the forming and maintaining of relationships ;
- assertiveness ;
- decision-making ;
- recognising and using opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle ;
- knowing where and how to access further information independently.

ORGANISATION

Sex Education is an integral part of College's PSHE Programme, though some teaching of Sex Education is carried out in Science classes. Delivery is through:

- planned components across curricular subjects and in PSHEE ;
- addressing moral and ethical issues which may arise through discussion.

Teaching Approaches

A variety of approaches is employed to give pupils relevant information, to enable moral issues to be explored through discussion, and to acquire appropriate skills.

Pupils are taught in mixed-ability and mixed-gender groups.

Pupils are given information on how to access confidential health care.

A wide range of teaching resources is available to staff and this is available for inspection by parents.

Sex Education is delivered when appropriate by outside agencies such as the College Nurse and sexual health outreach worker.

Sex Education forms some part of the curriculum in every year group.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

The following issues may arise in the course of the teaching of Sex Education. Procedures in such eventualities must be understood by staff, pupils and parents.

Confidentiality and Advice

Pupils will be made aware that some information cannot be held as confidential. They will be made to understand that if certain disclosures are made, certain actions must and will ensue. At the same time, pupils will be offered sensitive and appropriate support. The following procedures will be followed by all adults:

- Disclosure or suspicion of possible abuse – College's Child Protection procedures will be invoked.
- Disclosure of pregnancy or advice on contraception – It is hoped that the following procedure will ensure that pupils who are in difficulty know that they can talk to an adult in College and that they will be supported.
- Professional information and guidance will always be sought from health professionals. College will always encourage pupils to talk with their parents first.
- Pupils should be asked whether they can tell their parent(s) and whether they want help in doing so. If this occurs, subsequent responsibility lies with the parent(s).
- If pupils refuse to inform their parent(s), the adult should refer them to the health professional.
- The adult should report the incident to the Principal.

Family Life

The value of family life is an important aspect, which will be approached largely through a consideration of the shared qualities and the relationships between the group of people, with an emphasis on stability, respect, caring and support.

As a part of the Sex Education programme, issues of contraception, HIV/Aids, sexuality and abortion are addressed. Facts are presented in an objective and balanced way, with pupils being encouraged to consider their attitudes and values.

Parental Partnership

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex Education Programme. Once a pupil has been withdrawn, he/she cannot take part in later Sex Education lessons without parental consent.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

Sex Education will be monitored by the Vice Principal (Learning and Teaching). A nominated College Governor has a link role between College and the Governing Body.

DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY

The College Sex Education Policy is available to parents on request.