


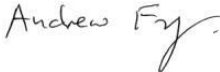


Ysgol Uwchradd Crughywel
Crickhowell High School

**Sex & Relationships Education Policy
2023-2024**

Reviewed by LT (name and date):	
Date of Issue:	
Reviewed / adopted by Governor Committee:	
Ratified by the full Governing Body:	September 2022

Signed:

MISS C. JONES	ACTING HEADTEACHER		DATE:	Sept 23
MR A. FRYER	CHAIR OF GOVERNORS		DATE:	Sept 23

Sex & Relationships Education Policy

1.0 Introduction

Crickhowell High School is a mixed 11-18 Comprehensive School, serving the town of Crickhowell and a number of villages/ Towns in the surrounding areas.

This policy was drafted by a group of teachers, parents and governors who were concerned to formulate a policy which addressed the legislative issues as well as ensuring that the subjects and the students received careful and sensitive treatment. Following the drafting the full staff, Governors Curriculum Committee and Friends Association were involved in the consultation process.

This policy addresses legal requirements, national strategies and Welsh Assembly Government guidance such as:

- Education Act 1996
- Sexual Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, 2010 - 2015
- Guidance on sex and relationships education (SRE) in schools
- The requirements of the Personal and social education framework for 7 to 19 year olds.

2.0 Links with Other Policies

The policy is linked to:

- Attendance and safeguarding policy
- Child protection policy
- Bullying and Harassment policy (including procedures for dealing with homophobic bullying)
- Accessibility Plan
- Behaviour for Learning policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Substance Misuse policy

3.0 Context

Schools must have an up to date SRE policy which is made available for inspection and to parents. The policy must:

- Define sex and relationship education
- Describe how sex and relationship education is provided and who is responsible for providing it
- Say how sex and relationship education is monitored and evaluated
- Include information about parents' right to withdrawal; and
- Be reviewed regularly

The term sex and relationships education (SRE) is used in this policy rather than sex education.

This is to stress that our approach goes beyond provision of biological information to also focus on clarifying attitudes and values, and developing self-esteem and the skills to manage

relationships. It is used to reflect the range of learning and support that schools provide regarding the emotional, physical and social aspects of relationships, sexual health and well-being

SRE is: ‘...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’
(*Sex and Relationship Education Guidance, DfE 0116/2000*)

4.0 Rationale

The purpose of sex & relationships education is to provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the processes of human reproduction. At the same time it should lead to the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare students to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

At Crickhowell High School we aim to present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner. Sex & relationships education will be set within a clear framework of moral values and an awareness of the law regarding sexual behaviour. Students will be encouraged to appreciate the value of family life, partnership and the responsibilities of parenthood. Such matters will be treated with sensitivity and great care will be taken to encourage all children to feel a sense of worth. Particular care will be taken when issues such as marital breakdown and divorce are dealt with.

Information will be given as regards the danger of unwanted pregnancy, STDs and HIV as outlined in the PSE scheme of work.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

All work undertaken within the curriculum is designed to support, contribute to and complement the aims of the school. We see the school as a caring, health promoting community where sex and relationship education is treated not as a separate entity, but as one facet of a wider programme of Personal and Social Education which includes topics such as relationships, the family, life and social skills, health related issues.

Within the context of Personal and Social Education our aim is to develop skills and provide information which will promote the growth of self-confident, positive individuals able to make appropriate decisions in relation to a variety of issues including friendship, smoking, drinking, use and misuse of drugs, relationships and sexuality.

In all aspect of discussing relationships and sexuality, the emphasis on commitment and a loving relationship is paramount.

6.0 Aims

In the attempt to enable students to acquire knowledge, skills, responsible attitudes and behaviour with regard to sex & relationship education, Crickhowell High School aims to provide a worthwhile educational experience for all its students which will present opportunities:

- To help students to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and for others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs and views of others;

- To enable students to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications, and risks, of certain types of behaviour and to accept that both sexes should behave responsibly in sexual matters;
- To support the personal development and social skills of the students;
- To ensure that students have an understanding of their own and others' sexuality;
- To discuss this in an honest, sensitive and non-discriminatory manner;
- To enjoy relationships based upon mutual respect and responsibility which are free from abuse and exploitation;
- To provide information and knowledge which will counteract prejudice and ignorance;
- To develop an understanding of risk and to promote strategies for personal safety;
- To enable students to be aware of the sources of help and to acquire the skills and confidence to use them.

7.0 Objectives

- To enable students to understand the biological aspects of reproduction;
- To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of family planning in terms of personal preference and their social and moral implications;
- To recognise and be able to discuss sensitive and controversial issues such as conception, virginity, birth, child-rearing, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases and technological developments which involve consideration of attitudes, values, beliefs and morality;
- To make students aware of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day society and recognise the importance of personal choice in managing relationships so that they do not present risks to health and personal safety;
- To make students aware that feeling positive about sexuality and sexual activity is important in relationships and that people have the right not to be sexually active;
- To focus on boys as much as girls;
- To recognise that parenthood is a matter of choice;
- To critically analyse moral values and explore those held by different cultures and groups;
- To understand the concept of stereotyping and to discuss issues such as sexual harassment in terms of their effects on individuals;
- To understand aspects of legislation relating to sexual behaviour, gender and equal opportunities and to make aware the availability of statutory and voluntary organisations which offer support in human relationships.

8.0 Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of Crickhowell High School's SRE programme are to help learners:

- develop positive attitudes and values that influence the way they behave
- develop the skills needed to make responsible and well-informed decisions about sexual health and well-being
- gain respect for themselves and others
- appreciate diversity within sexual orientation and celebrate difference
- build successful relationships
- appreciate the importance of stable and loving personal relationships
- understand the physical and emotional aspects of sex, sexuality and sexual health and well-being
- understand the consequences and risks of sexual activity
- recognise the benefits of delaying sexual activity
- understand the laws relating to sexual behaviour

- know how to get appropriate advice on sexual health and well-being.

9.0 Organisation within Crickhowell

Within the framework of PSE the majority of time in Years 7, 8 & 9 students are working on a programme designed to improve their personal skills and develop self-confidence. In Year 7 students are concerned with understanding the body and reproductive functions. Puberty and changes in adolescence are considered in Year 8. Around 13/14 young people are physically more aware of their own and others sexuality. It is important during this time to reassure the student that such feelings are normal. During Year 9, students are involved in a unit of work which considers relationships alongside other topics relating to goal setting and making choices.

In the PSE lessons in Year 10, students consider relationships as a unit and look at factors which affect the decision whether or not to be sexually active – including kissing, masturbating, petting and intercourse. They will also consider issues relating to contraception and Sexually Transmitted Infections. In Year 11 students reconsider factors affecting an individual's choice of being sexually active or not, the legislation and the current statistics regarding HIV and AIDS. Students are encouraged to consider issues and examine their own decision-making skills in light of personal values and responses. Young people are encouraged to accept that sexuality is a lifelong process and that there are specific events that are significant to their sexuality. They need to take responsibility for the process and consider events as:-

- Accepting sexual feelings
- Deciding whether or not to act on these feelings
- Whether or not to be celibate or sexually active
- Whether or not to use contraception
- Whether or not to have children

Within the PSE Programme all students in Year 10 & 11 also consider the religious and moral aspect of issues such as Abortion and Euthanasia.

Within Science, students follow the 'Fusion' course in Years 7, & 8. In Year 7 youngsters study the various mechanisms for reproduction. Years 9, 10 & 11 either follow a Double Award Science course or a Separate Sciences course. Students visit the topics of reproduction, contraception and HIV. In Year 11 Genetics is also studied.

Within Science in Year 7, students are taught in the same groups as for PSE. In all other years they are placed in sets according to ability.

A number of students who have opted to follow the examination course in Religious Studies will, as part of the Christianity and Contemporary Society, consider in Year 11 the views of various Christian denominations in relation to sex before marriage, contraception and abortion.

10.0 Resources

Within each curriculum area it is for the Director of Learning to establish a variety of resources appropriate to the development of the students and the subject area considered. At Crickhowell every effort is made to ensure that a variety of recognised resources are available to staff and can be made available to parents on request.

11.0 Legal Obligations

Under the current legislation the School acknowledges the right of every parent to withdraw their child from sex education, except where the student's education is compromised with respect to the National Curriculum.

In such an event we would ask that such a request be forwarded to the Coordinator for Personal and Social Education, c/o The School Office. Although not a requirement, we would also invite parents to indicate their reasons for withdrawal, so that any misunderstanding about the nature of sex education can be resolved. The School should keep a record of all such requests

The School is aware of its obligations to distinguish between providing sex and relationship education and individual counselling. Staff are advised to encourage individuals requesting specific advice on aspects of sexual behaviour, to seek advice from his/her parent or from other relevant health service professionals.

Staff are also aware of their responsibility to inform the Headteacher in circumstances where they believe the young person has in mind a course of conduct, which is likely to place him/her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law.

Staff are advised to be careful not to guarantee confidentiality, but to use their professional judgment, consulting colleagues when appropriate.

This policy takes account of all ages, races and gender and can be translated on request.

12.0- Sex Education Policy Statement

"In drawing up a statement on Sex & Relationship Education for Crickhowell High School, the Governors are aware of their obligation to ensure that the subject receives careful and sensitive treatment, with no distinction between boys and girls in the content and manner of delivery and it is accepted that all classes will be mixed.

The emphasis on commitment and a loving relationship is paramount. As Governors we see the school as a caring, health promoting community where sex education is treated, not as a separate entity, but as one facet of a wider programme of Personal and Social Education which includes topics such as relationships, the family, life and social skills and other health related issues.

Aspects of sex education are to be dealt with as part of the Science curriculum and during Personal & Social Educational lessons. A variety of materials, which will be made available to parents, in response to a specific request, will be used in PSE lessons. These materials aim to encourage skills of decision-making with regard to all aspects of personal development and health.

At all stages, questions arising from classroom discussion will be answered by the teacher in a caring way, appropriate to the group being taught. Staff who are concerned that they are unwilling or unable to deal with particular issues will be encouraged to refer the matter to other colleagues. Parents, who are concerned about any aspect of sex & relationship education, should in the first instance contact the Co-ordinator for Personal and Social Education. Parents who wish to exercise their right to withdraw a student from any aspect of sex education should forward their request to the Co-ordinator for Personal and Social Education.

Governors are aware of the need to encourage the development of staff expertise in all aspects of Personal and Social Education including sex education. “



Appendix A

Specific sexual health issues

Sexual Orientation

Throughout the course of teaching a variety of sensitive issues will inevitably be explored. It is recognised that an individual's sexuality is a highly personal matter.

The teaching of sex & relationships education at Crickhowell High School places stress upon the need for understanding and awareness of a variety of sexual preferences across the spectrum of human sexuality.

Crickhowell High School will make sure that the needs of all students are met. Whatever their developing sexuality, our aim will be to make sex and relationship education relevant to them and sensitive to their needs.

Sexual orientation and what is taught in schools is an area of concern for some parents. Crickhowell High School will liaise with parents as regards our sex and relationship education policy and programme in order to reassure parents of the content of the programme and the context in which it will be presented.

Advice to Individual Students

At Crickhowell High School we will promote the services of the school nurse, health visitor and local medical facilities (LHB) as the first port of call as regards issues of general sex education, including pregnancy, pre- and post 16.

It is understood that it is important to distinguish between the school's function of providing education generally about sexual matters and the giving of advice to individual students on these issues; teachers have always taken a pastoral interest in the welfare and well-being of their students. It is also understood that this function should never trespass on the proper exercise of parental rights and responsibilities.

It is understood that particular care must be exercised in relation to giving contraceptive advice to students under the age of sixteen, for whom sexual intercourse is unlawful. As such, those requiring advice will be directed towards the services of the school nurse, health visitor and local medical facilities (LHB).

Where the circumstances are such as to lead the teacher to believe that the student has embarked upon, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which is likely to place him or her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, the teacher has the general responsibility to ensure that the student is aware of the implications and is urged to seek advice.

Student Pregnancy

The Welsh Assembly Government Circular 11/2002 states that there is no evidence that maintaining a pregnant student or school age mother in school will encourage others to become pregnant. As such our aim is to maintain the student in learning, even if there may be a period of non-school attendance.

*'To propose better solutions to combat the risk of social exclusion for vulnerable teenage parents".
Social Exclusion Report on Teenage Pregnancy, Teenage Pregnancy Unit, DfES 2007*

If the Headteacher has good reason to consider that the school is no longer a suitable environment for the education of a pregnant student or school age mother then a multi-agency approach (student, parents/carers, LEA, advocate, health professionals) will be utilised in order to decide the most suitable provision.

Resources

Added Power And Understanding in Sex and Relationships (APAUSE) programme.

'Underage and Pregnant' Teachers Pack from BBC

Confidentiality

At Crickhowell High School teachers will ensure that any disclosure made to them, involving pregnancy or similar concern, will be passed on to the schools Child Protection Officer, from which point the school's Child Protection Policy will determine the next appropriate steps. As such teachers will never guarantee students unconditional confidentiality; this will be made clear to the student concerned. A teacher will note the discussion (detail, time, place, others present) with regard to further appropriate consultation with the schools Child Protection Officer.

Involving Learners - Gender

Traditionally the focus for sex & relationships education has been on girls. Boys may have felt that sex & relationships education is not relevant to them and are unable or too embarrassed to ask questions about relationships or sex. Boys are also less likely to talk to their parents about sex and relationships. For these reasons, we will focus on boys as much as girls during our sex & relationships education lessons.

Activities will help to engage boys as well as girls, matching their different learning styles.

Involving Learners - Ethnicity

Sex & relationship education at Crickhowell High School will aim to be culturally appropriate and inclusive of all children.

SEN & Learning Difficulties

Crickhowell High School has a duty to ensure that children with special educational needs and learning difficulties are properly included in sex and relationship education. Sex and relationship education should help all students understand their physical and emotional development and enable them to make positive decisions in their lives.

Some students will be more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation than their peers, and others may be confused about what is acceptable public behaviour. Crickhowell High School will help to develop skills to reduce the risks of being abused and exploited and to learn what sorts of behaviours are, and are not, acceptable.

Crickhowell High School will ensure that students with special needs receive sex and relationship education. Teachers may find that they have to be more explicit and plan work in different ways in order to meet the individual needs of children with special educational needs or learning difficulties. Care will be taken not to marginalise sex and relationship education.

Continuing professional development

Professional development needs of staff are identified through the Performance Management System.

Training needs are met in the following ways:

- Relevant staff receive continuing professional specialist support and training from Welsh Assembly Government funded Healthy Schools coordinators.
- Support and training is disseminated amongst relevant staff through department meetings.

Working with parents/carers and the wider community

The prime responsibility for bringing up children rests with parents/carers. We recognise that parents/carers are key figures in helping their children cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings. As such our teaching is seen as complementary and supportive to the role of parents/carers.