



UTC PLYMOUTH

Sex and Relationships Policy

Introduction

The Sex and Relationships Education Policy has been developed in accordance with the current requirements of the law, taking into account the Children's Act 1989 and 2004 and the Education Act 1993 and 2002.

Aims

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is an educational entitlement for all children and young people. It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development and sex, sexuality and sexual health. It enhances the self-worth and confidence of each individual and encourages mutually respectful relationships and empathy for others.

It has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- Recognition of the value of family life, marriage, stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children
- Respect for self and others
- Exploration of moral dilemmas
- Development of critical thinking

Personal and Social Skills

- Self-confidence, self-esteem and empathy for others
- Managing emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- Skills of choice to manage responsibility

Knowledge and understanding

- Emotions and relationships
- Physical development
- Sexuality, reproduction, sexual health
- Information on local and national contraception and sexual health services
- Reasons for delaying sexual activity
- The avoidance of unplanned pregnancy
- Keeping safe from sexually transmitted infections (STI's)

The UTC provides a setting in which students can be offered appropriate teaching about Sex and Relationships Education. The purpose of SRE is to assist children and young people to prepare for adult life by supporting them through their physical, emotional and moral development and helping them to understand themselves, respect others and form and sustain healthy relationships. SRE is supported by the UTC's respective Science curriculum and external agencies and is inclusive of all students to ensure that they:

- Receive their sex education in the wider context of relationships
- Are prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life
- Develop positive attitudes to sexuality

Sex Education at UTC Plymouth is taught across all year groups up to and including the Sixth Form. Students in Year 10 and 11 also receive sessions delivered by NHS nurses assigned to the college. Our weekly ORACY lessons can include and reference Sex and Relationships. The programme is designed to support and complement the role of parents who have the prime responsibility in this sensitive area.

Summary of Programme Content

The main aims of the Sex and Relationships Education programme are primarily to appreciate the values of family life and to promote the benefits of family life. Students are encouraged to recognise the responsibilities of parenthood and to respect themselves and others. Students are educated in the importance of behaving responsibly and respectfully in sexual matters. Moral and ethical issues are presented and discussed.

The programme looks at the biology of sexual maturation, focusing on the physical and emotional changes associated with puberty as well as the related issues of personal hygiene. Students receive information about sexually transmitted infections including HIV and AIDS and the importance of practising safe sex. Students receive information about contraception and its importance in guarding against unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. The programme covers the legal implications of sexual behaviour.

Students are made aware of people and places they can go to for appropriate help or advice and signposting is available through our counselling programme.

Partnership with Parents / Guardians

Most of a student's informal sex and relationship education occurs within the family and the UTC's programme will compliment and build on this in co-operation with homes. Parents have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from all or part of the Sex and Relationships Education programme that is not included in the Programme of Study for the Science National Curriculum. Any parent wishing to withdraw a child from the programme should inform the Principal in writing of their decision. Students who are withdrawn will be accommodated separately and will be set appropriate, alternative work to complete.

Information on Contraceptives

The teaching about contraception should be carried out in a frank and open manner with students being given non-biased information about various forms of contraception. UTC employees do not give advice to individuals – advice can only be given through an appropriate external agency.

Confidentiality and Child Protection

All UTC employees and external visitors who work with our students will be given a copy of this policy and our Child Protection Policy. UTC Senior Staff will be guided by the Frazer Guidelines, that provide guidance for health professional and details of these are provided in the DFE document Sex and Relation Education (2000). The Principal or the Designated Safeguarding Lead will have a discussion with any health professional or other adult before they start work with our students. This is to ensure they are familiar with our policy and expectations regarding correct practice and responding to issues, including those that may relate to Child Protection Matters.

Employees should ensure that students understand that they are not in a position to guarantee confidentiality.

Employees should ensure they are fully aware of UTC's procedures in dealing with Child Protection issues.

Equal Opportunities

Sex and Relationships Education will be delivered equally to both genders, normally in mixed classes. There are, however, certain topics that may be delivered in single sex groupings e.g. Menstruation and Personal Hygiene.

Topics delivered through the Sex and Relationships Education Programme
Science 'sex and relationships'

In year 10 the Science Programme of Study includes the knowledge and understanding of the effect of sex hormones and how sex is determined in humans.

The medical use of hormones to control and promote fertility is discussed.

Methodology and Approach, including explicitness and delivery of controversial topics:

Employees should make it explicit that lessons will cover essential knowledge as well as the opportunity for reflection and discussion. It is important that teachers can present the course information with a sense of openness yet that the opportunity for students to ask questions is there.

Questions about individual contraceptive advice cannot be dealt with by UTC teaching employees.

Information can only be given by the relevant external agency.

UTC employees should try to respond to students questions providing that answers are framed in terms of the promotion of family values.

Homosexuality does not feature as a topic in itself within the curriculum, however there are trained employees reference to this. References to the physical aspects of relationships should be avoided in discussion.

Inclusion statement

UTC has a commitment to ensure that programmes are relevant to all students and are delivered in a way that is age and stage appropriate.

Evaluation, assessment and reporting to parents

Evaluation and assessment including self-assessment are an integral part of SRE. A comment on a student's progress in SRE will be included in our reporting on PSHE to parents / guardians at the end of each academic year

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy is evaluated on an annual basis with recommendations made to the Principal. The policy is reviewed annually, along with recommendations by the UTC Board of Governors.

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Date agreed: 28th March 2017

Date of Review: 28th March 2018

VERSION CONTROL SHEET

POLICY NAME: Sex and Relationships Policy

Policy Prepared by: Julie Rae

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May 2019			Policy updated and reviewed -Sophie Wood
Nov 2020			Updated and Reviewed
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