



Sex Education and Relationships Policy

Reviewed May 2016

Rationale

The Sex Education & Relationships programme at Ysgol gyfun Rhydywaun is planned in conjunction with Welsh Assembly Government Circular guides 019/2010 and the PSE Framework for 7-19 year olds in Wales.

The goal is to assist students to acquire the skills and knowledge appropriate to their age, understanding and development and enable them to make responsible decisions about their relationships, emotions, sexual health and wellbeing.

The programme will:

- promote emotional, moral, cultural, social and physical development of pupils
- encourage pupils to discuss and express their sexuality in positive ways and contribute to their ability to recognise and resist abuse
- prepare pupils to take responsibility for their behavior
- tell pupils how to get help and personal information
- provide high quality SRE as part of their personal, emotional and social development.

Specific objectives

- Present facts about physical and emotional development and ensure understanding of adolescence
- Present facts about sex, contraception, abortion, sexual diseases, AIDS put forward in the context of respect and love, and create awareness of the responsibilities and consequences of sexual relationships
- Demonstrate the importance of pupils' personal and individual decisions on sexual relationships. Encouraging them not to accept unconditionally standards imposed on them by peers and media.
- Give pupils the opportunity to go through the process of thinking and discussing gender issues so that they are ready to face future life situations in a more mature, sensitive and thoughtful way.

Introducing sex education programme

The content taught to pupils is distinguished by year group in order to ensure continuity and progression between years and key stages.

Sex education is taught in collaboration with the Health Service, external agencies and members of the teaching staff. Pupils will be taught as a mixed-sex group and / or as a group of boys / girls separately depending on the topic / theme. The content & components are also part of the schemes of work of some departments within the school.

The aim is to structure the programme and lessons carefully and highlight the moral context and ensure responsibility is being installed as a clear basis for all discussions. The main goal is to convey the message that personal choice is central and that every individual is different and that every choice has emotional and physical consequences. It is critically important to highlight and develop the idea of self-respect and respect for others and also the idea of the responsibility of being a parent.

Statutory requirements

Section 404 of the Education Act 1996 requires governing bodies of all maintained schools to:

- (A) make, and regularly update, a written statement of their policy with regard to the provision of sex education, and
- (B) make copies of the statement to be made available for inspection (at all reasonable times) by parents of children registered in school and provide a copy of the statement free of charge to any parent who requests one.

By law, parents have the right under section 405 of the Education Act 1996 to excuse their children from sex education.

Section 101 (1) (c) of the Education Act 2002 requires maintained secondary schools to include sex education for all registered pupils at the school as part of the 'basic curriculum' of school. When sex education is provided, it requires head teachers and governing bodies to consider WAG guidelines.

Section 403 (1C) requires that the Assembly's guidelines 'should include guidance on any material which may be produced by NHS bodies for use in sex education in schools.'

Section 403 of the Education Act 1996 requires the governing body and the Head: to take such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure, where sex education is given to any registered pupil at a school, it is given in a way that encourages the pupils to pay due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.

The WAG Sexual Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2010-2015 renews commitment to -

- improve the sexual health and wellbeing of the population in Wales
- close the inequality gap in sexual health
- develop a society that supports open discussion about relationships, sex and sexuality.

Confidentiality

Teachers / professionals **can not** offer or promise confidentiality especially in relation to personal disclosures.

Pupils are encouraged to discuss with their parents / guardians and supported to do so.

We ensure that pupils are aware of confidential support services eg The school nurse / counseling.

All disclosures are dealt with in accordance with the Child Protection policy.