

Ysgol Bro Tawe



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is at the heart of our school's planning, policies, practice and ethos. As a rights-respecting school we not only teach about children's rights but also model rights and respect in all relationships. Our belief in "restorative approaches" ensures that every child is listened to.



Article 13: Your right to have information.

Article 16: Your right to privacy.

Article 34: The government should protect children from sexual abuse.

Introduction

This policy is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for teaching Relationships and Sex Education at Ysgol Bro Tawe. It should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Personal and Social Education Policy;
- Religious Education Policy;
- Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy;
- Behaviour Policy.

The aim of this policy is to provide details of the provision of Relationship and Sex Education to all pupils and the teaching of human growth and reproduction as set out in the National Curriculum for Wales. This policy applies to all pupils at Ysgol Bro Tawe.

At Ysgol Bro Tawe, Relationship and Sex Education will be taught within the whole school PSE curriculum and tailored to the ability, age, physical and emotional maturity and cultural background of the pupils.

As a healthy school we have a graduated age appropriate approach to Relationship and Sex education.

Statutory Responsibilities

The Education Reform Act 1988 requires that schools provide a curriculum that 'promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society; and prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences for adult life.

The Education Act 1986 states that good Sex Education "is given in such a manner to encourage..... pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and family life". Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or any part of Relationships and Sex Education provided but not from the teaching of the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under National Curriculum Science.

Welsh Assembly Government Circular No 019/2010 states: "Schools play a central role in having a positive and sustained impact on children and young people's sexual health and wellbeing. All learners in Wales should receive high-quality Relationships and Sex education (RSE) as part of their personal and social development."

We are mindful of the draft guidance: Relationship and Sexuality Education in Schools (February 2019) which may replace Circular No 019/2010.

What is Relationship and Sex Education?

Relationship and Sex Education covers the physiological and psychological aspects of sexual development:

- Physical growth and change;
- Reproduction;
- Emotions and relationships;
- Choices and responsibilities;
- Personal health and safety;
- Appropriate and inappropriate touch.

In delivering Relationship and Sex Education we will provide pupils with opportunities to:

- Acquire and clarify information;
- Explore and develop attitudes, values and beliefs;
- Understand emotions and feelings.

The Aims of Relationship and Sex Education are to:

- Provide knowledge and information about human development and personal growth;
- Help them keep safe;
- Prepare pupils for physical and emotional changes in themselves and others;
- Raise pupils' self-esteem and confidence;
- Enable pupils to respect and value themselves and others;

- Encourage responsible behaviour for themselves and towards others;
- Understand appropriate sexual behaviour in public and private situations;
- Develop skills of communication, decision-making and assertiveness;
- Help pupils exercise control and choice over their health and personal lifestyle;
- Encourage pupils to form positive relationships based on respect and responsibility.

At all times we will take great care and sensitivity to match teaching to the maturity of the pupils. Our overriding aim is to provide a foundation that will allow each child to grow up and become competent, confident, rational and self-reliant in adulthood. We recognise the value of involving outside speakers as appropriate, for example the school nurse and NSPCC. We will always check the content of their session to make sure that messages are consistent. A member of staff will be present throughout.

Delivering Relationship and Sex Education

Relationship and Sex Education is taught across the school through the PSE curriculum using language and materials that are relevant and suited to the age and ability of the pupils. It may also be delivered in Science lessons.

The range of topics discussed include:

- The Health Service (doctors, hospitals, dentists, ambulances etc)
- Safety (in the home, on the road, near water etc)
- Personal Safety
- The naming the internal organs of the human body
- Health related issues (smoking, drinking, drugs etc)
- Personal hygiene and dental care
- Morality (difference between right and wrong)
- Personal relationships
- Growth and development (a young person becoming an adult physically and emotionally)

Resources used include:

Growing Up / Tyfu i Fyny, SENSE CD-Rom, Incredible Years programme, Spectrum (Hafan Cymru) resources, NSPCC PANTS and SEAL Resources.

Home/School Liaison

- "Parents are the first sex educators of children and home is the most influential environment, so working in partnership is very important". (FPA Cymru 1995)
- "The teaching offered by school should be complementary and supportive of the role of the parent, and should have regard to a parents' view about its content and presentation". (WO Circular 45/94)

➤ It is essential that in this sensitive area there is close liaison and cooperation between the school and parents. Parents are encouraged to work with the school and are reassured that any ethnic and religious considerations are taken into account. Parents will be informed if a programme of Relationship and Sex Education is to be delivered in their child's class and the outline of the programme will be explained. They may also view any materials to be used. Parents will be told which areas fall outside the Science National Curriculum and therefore can request that their child is withdrawn from those lessons. These requests should be made to the Head teacher and alternative arrangements can be agreed.

Confidentiality

Pupils should be encouraged to know that they can speak privately with any member of staff if they have any concerns or worries. Staff will deal honestly with any queries.

Where staff have particular concerns regarding pupils' sexual behaviour they must refer the issue to the Headteacher who will take the necessary action and may need to follow Child Protection Procedures (**Refer to Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy**).

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Records of pupils' work will be used as evidence of achievement and progress along with the comments and observations of staff.

Resources

- Primary resources, and those linked to the PSE scheme of work are held centrally.
- Resources will continue to be monitored and reviewed to keep them up to date and relevant to the pupils.

Continuing Professional Development

It is essential that all staff receive training on issues relating to Sex and Relationship Education to enable them to separate their personal views and values from their professional duties.

Training for all staff should include:

- Awareness of personal relationships and sexuality;
- Awareness of sexual abuse and the school procedures;
- Awareness of guidelines for confidentiality.

Training needs will be met through the from the school budget. Advantage will be taken of any training/development opportunities to participate in Powys Teaching Health Board.

The Role of the Wellbeing Team:

- Take the lead in policy development and PSE scheme of work;
- Monitor the teaching and learning of RSE to ensure continuity and progression,
- Take responsibility for the purchase and deployment of resources throughout the school;
- Provide support for colleagues in their use of resources in the classroom;
- Co-ordinate the evaluation and review of the school's RSE policy;
- Keep up to date on developments and pass on information to colleagues as appropriate.

The Role of the Headteacher is to:

- Consult with staff to determine how Relationship and Sex Education should support, enrich and extend the curriculum;
- Identify a Subject Leader and ensure there is a policy;
- Liaise with the Subject Leader on the provision and allocation of resources.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed as detailed in the school's policy review cycle. It may also be necessary to review and amend it sooner to reflect both local and national changes.