



### 1. Origin of the Policy on Sex and Relationships Education

1.1 The North Liverpool Academy has largely adopted the policy of Anfield CC School, that was formulated by a working party of staff in 1995 to meet the DfES requirements as outlined in Circular 5/94. The Academy will keep the policy under review, in particular evaluating its effectiveness during the first year of operation.

### 2. Dissemination of the Policy

2.1 A summary of this policy is included in the school prospectus. The full policy is available on request.

### 3. Aim of the Sex and Relationships Education Policy

3.1 The aim of this policy is to communicate clearly to staff, parents, visitors and students the manner in which sex education will be delivered in the Academy. Interested parties are advised to refer to various related Academy policies, including:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Bullying Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Drugs Policy

### 4. Aims of the Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Programme

4.1 The Academy believes that education in the matters of sex and relationships is an educational entitlement of all pupils and an integral part of each child's emergence into adulthood. Its aims are:

- to provide objective, unbiased information for pupils and their parents
- to equip pupils to make responsible decisions about the relationships they form with others
- to allow pupils to develop skills of assertiveness, communication and effective dialogue in relationships
- to explore feelings and attitudes such as love, anger, trust, respect, sadness and grief
- to help young people to examine their own attitudes and values
- to foster self-esteem, positive self-image and confidence, which are important aspects of decision making behaviour.

### 5. Moral and Values Framework

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5.1 The Academy will deliver SRE within the framework of its shared values. Pupils will therefore be expected to engage with those values, and in particular demonstrate that they understand the importance of:

- respect and valuing themselves and others
- being sensitive towards the needs and views of others
- taking responsibility for their own actions to their family, the Academy and the wider community

## 6. Content of the SRE Programme

6.1 Sex and Relationships Education provides knowledge, and encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes which will provide a foundation for pupils to manage their adult lives in a responsible and healthy way.

6.2 The following topics will be included in the programme:

### 6.2.1 Key Stage 3:

- Puberty
- Personal safety and personal hygiene
- Friendship and love
- Family life and relationships
- Gender issues
- Introduction to Conception and birth
- Introduction to Contraception
- Introduction to HIV/AIDS and safer sex
- Support agencies
- Sex and the law
- Life stages
- Introduction to aspects of genetic inheritance.

### 6.2.2 Key Stage 4:

- Conception
- Fertility/infertility
- Birth processes
- Early parenting
- Genetic inheritance
- Contraception
- Abortion
- Fostering and adoption
- Relationships and contemporary concerns
- Sexual lifestyles
- Sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS
- Prejudice and stereotyping

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# NORTH LIVERPOOL ACADEMY

## SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

- Different faiths and cultures
- Support agencies

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### 6.3 Notes on aspects of content

6.3.1 The Academy, through its staff, will provide clear and unbiased information on all topics. Staff will not be permitted to offer personal opinions as part of SRE.

6.3.2 As can be seen above, issues such as HIV/AIDS, contraception, abortion and sexuality are addressed as part of the SRE programme. Facts are presented in an objective and balanced manner, with pupils being encouraged to consider their attitudes and values within the Academy's moral framework. They are made aware of the differences between fact, opinion and religious belief. The value of family life is an important aspect of SRE which will be approached largely through a consideration of the qualities and relationships between the group of people, with an emphasis on stability, respect, caring and support.

## 7. Organisation and Delivery of SRE

7.1 Sex and Relationships Education will initially be co-ordinated by a dedicated Working Group which is responsible for the overall planning, implementation and review of the programme.

7.2 Formal delivery is through specifically planned lessons within the school curriculum. A variety of teaching approaches are used, to:

- provide students with relevant information
- enable moral and ethical issues to be explored through discussion
- allow students to acquire appropriate 'life' skills.

7.3 Students will often be taught in mixed ability and gender groups but, where specific needs arise, arrangements will be made to teach students in appropriate groupings. As the academy is committed to working towards equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life, it is accepted that, for instance, single sex teaching groups may be appropriate at times. SRE will be delivered with due sensitivity to pupils' cultural and religious customs.

7.4 A range of teaching resources will be available to teachers and these may be inspected by parents on request.

7.5 With regard to Sex and Relationships Education, it is important that staff feel comfortable delivering the subject matter; appropriate support or training will be provided if required. As stated previously, all teaching is to be carried out within the Academy's value framework. This specifically prohibits teachers from allowing their personal beliefs and attitudes to influence the teaching of Sex and Relationships Education.

7.6 A specialist health professional will be employed to teach students about all aspects of Sex and Relationships Education with a curriculum appropriate to age

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and maturity.

### **8. Working with Parents and Student Withdrawal Procedures**

8.1 The Academy is committed to working in partnership with parents. Under the 1993 Education Act, Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the formal sex education programme outside the National Curriculum. Parents wishing to exercise that right are asked to make an appointment with the Assistant Principal or the Head of House to discuss their concerns. Once a child has been withdrawn, they cannot take part in Sex and Relationships Education at a later date without prior written parental approval.

8.2 In addition to the formal curriculum, however, the Academy recognises that teachers have a responsibility to address moral and ethical issues which arise in apparently unrelated topics in all National Curriculum subjects. Within this category, as long as any discussion takes place within the context of the subject it will not be deemed to be part of the sex education programme and therefore not subject to the parental "right of withdrawal".

### **9. Monitoring and Review of the Programme**

9.1 The Sex and Relationships Education programme will be monitored by the Governors' Pastoral and Curriculum Committees. A nominated Governor will have a link role between the Academy and the Governing Body.

### **10. Specific Issues**

10.1 Certain issues may arise as part of the Sex and Relationships Education programme. Staff, parents and pupils need to be aware of the Academy's procedures in relation to these areas.

10.2 Although in general, confidentiality will be respected, pupils must understand that some information cannot be held to be confidential and that, if certain disclosures are made, there will be consequences. Where this happens, though, pupils will be offered sensitive and appropriate support. The following procedures will be adhered to by all adults in the Academy:

#### **10.3 Disclosure or suspicion of possible abuse**

10.3.1 The Academy's child protection procedures will be invoked as soon as any disclosure is made or a suspicion of abuse is reported to a member of Academy staff.

#### **10.4 Disclosure of Pregnancy**

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10.4.1 If a student believes herself to be pregnant but refuses to tell her parents, the adult to whom the disclosure has been made should :

- inform the Principal, Assistant Principal and Head of House
- inform the Attendance Welfare Officer. and the school nurse of both the disclosure and the student's refusal to inform her parent(s). (The school nurse will then arrange for the parent[s] to be informed)

10.4.2 The above guidelines will also apply if a male pupil discloses his girlfriend (if she is an Academy pupil) is pregnant

### **10.5 When a Pupil seeks Advice on Contraception**

10.5.1 If advice is sought by a pupil, the member of staff should:

- refer the pupil to either the Head of House or the Assistant Principal who will deal with the situation on an individual basis.
- in either event, put in writing what action has been taken and give the written record to the Assistant Principal.

### **Further Information 1: Complaints Procedure**

Any complaints about the Sex and Relationships Education curriculum should be made to the Assistant Principal who will report the complaint to the governors via the link governor.

### **Further Information 2: Outside Agencies**

Outside agencies will be used to support and assist the teachers in the development of the classroom-based work. On occasions, outside agencies may be involved in classroom-based work as part of the planned developmental programme following discussion and negotiation. Where this is the case, they will be required to work within the Academy's moral and values framework outlined earlier.

### **Further Information 3: Note on HIV Policy**

The Academy follows the procedure outlined by the City Council with regard to supporting students or staff infected or affected by HIV.

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