



## Personal, Social and Careers and Sex and Relationship Policy

This policy was agreed by the Governing Body in May 2015 and implemented in June 2015. It will be reviewed in May 2019.

Signed ..... Chair of Governors

Signed ..... Headteacher

Education about sex and personal relationships has an important part to play in preparing young people for responsible adult life. This policy has been written in light of the 1996 Education Act (as amended by Section 148 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000) and the National Assembly for Wales Circular Number 11/02 'Sex and Relationships in Schools' July 2002 and recognises the change in emphasis from sex education to sex and relationship education (SRE).

### Aims and Objectives of SRE

The Welsh Assembly has indicated that schools should endeavour to move away from 'sex education' and develop a broader approach that embraces human relationships and problems (Circular 11/02).

*"The objective of SRE is to help and support pupils through their physical, emotional, moral and spiritual development...It should prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, and enable them to develop considered attitudes, values and skills which influence the way they behave."*

The SRE Programme at Treorchy Comprehensive School aims:

- To help and support pupils through their physical, emotional, moral and spiritual development
- To help pupils respect themselves and others and move with confidence through adolescence into adulthood
- It should prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life and enable them to develop considered attitudes, values and skills which influence the way they behave
- It is about understanding the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love, care and the building of successful relationships with friends and the wider community
- SRE is also about gaining knowledge and awareness of sex, sexuality, processes of human reproduction and sexual health
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### Staff should ensure that:

- pupils are provided with comprehensive information that is accurate and relevant so they are able to address life issues.
- facts are presented in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner.
- facts are set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour.
- pupils are encouraged to appreciate the value of self respect, own choice and that of a stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood.
- pupils recognise that there are strong and mutually supportive stable relationships outside of marriage.

- pupils are able to have open discussions in order that pupils make informed and considered decisions

The SRE programme at Treorchy aims to provide pupils with knowledge and awareness of sex and sexual health. Following the Welsh Assembly's guidelines we aim to teach about:

- the benefits of delaying sexual activity
- how to obtain appropriate advice on sexual health.

**Staff should ensure that:**

- pupils who are not sexually active are encouraged to postpone sexual intercourse.
- pupils who are sexually active have knowledge and understanding of contraceptives and health care agencies.
- pupils are helped to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and others, loyalty and fidelity.
- pupils are enabled to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications, and risks, of certain types of behaviour.
- pupils must take responsibility for their sexual activities and that the repercussions of sexual activity may impact adversely on their family and friends
- pupils recognise and respond appropriately to unacceptable behaviour by adults and other children.

**Equal Opportunities**

Through the SRE programme all pupils within Treorchy Comprehensive are encouraged and supported to develop and clarify their attitudes and values towards sex, sexuality and relationships. As a comprehensive school we cater for all abilities and SRE should help individuals to understand their own level physical and emotional development. If a pupil has severe educational special needs and staff do not feel they will participate effectively in the SRE programme, a support programme may be requested from the ALNCO.

For young people to acquire self esteem and confidence it is important that their cultural identities are supported and recognised as significant and therefore we request that our pupils respect and empathise with the views of others. We welcome the views of religious and ethnic minority groups represented within the school.

Preparation for parenting will be provided for future fathers as well as mothers.

Section 405 of the Education act 1996 states, "*If the parent of any pupil in attendance at a maintained school requests that he may be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education at the school, the pupil shall, except so far as such education is comprised in the National Curriculum, be so excused accordingly until the request is withdrawn.*" Consequently we will excuse pupils from SRE lessons if a parent requests this, but lessons which are part of the National Curriculum, for instance the topic of the human reproductive system within the Science Key Stage 3 National Curriculum, are a compulsory part of every pupils educational entitlement.

**Teaching and Learning**

**Staff should ensure that:**

- no personal comments are made.
- neither, teacher or pupil, will have to answer a personal question.
- no pupil will be forced to participate in a discussion.
- they do not discuss their personal lives with pupils.
- they DO NOT condone or encourage illegal sexual activities.
- they are aware of the range of maturity and sophistication shown by individuals within their class.
- they do not give contraceptive advice, as they are not qualified medical practitioners.
- they DO NOT offer confidentiality to pupils. If a child informs a teacher of activities which the teacher deems to be abuse then the teacher must report it, in accordance with the schools 'Child Protection Policy'.

**Staff may:**

- decide to give an answer to an individual or group, rather than the whole class, or refer the child to another teacher.
- discuss the range of contraception available, its effectiveness and the role of family planning.
- inform pupils of where contraceptive and sexual health advice may be obtained.

**Teaching strategies Include:**

- Discussions – paired talk & talk in threes
- Speculation on hypothetical scenarios.
- role-play
- case studies
- dramatisations

**Curriculum Entitlement**

SRE is not taught as a discrete subject and is covered in a number of subject areas as well as in calendared PSE days. Planning has been embarked upon using the WAG PSE framework published in 2008, which gives clear guidelines on the range of topics learners should be given the opportunity to discuss, learn about and understand.

**PSE:** A range of issues are covered in PSE: study of contraception and problems of parenthood and pregnancy. Issues of sexual health, including sexually transmitted infections like HIV and AIDS, and sexual orientation are also considered.

These topics will be addressed in the appropriate Key Stage but shifting timetabling, speaker, curriculum and examination specification requirements does mean that they may not be delivered in the same year or term. Any parent who wishes to know when a specific aspect of SRE is being delivered to their child should contact the PSE Co-ordinator.

Some SRE issues may be discussed in other parts of the curriculum. All materials and topics introduced will be appropriate for the physical and emotional development of the class concerned.

The programme of study for PSE covers the following range of topics:

Yr 7: Puberty; friendship, peer pressure, dealing with change

Yr 8: Puberty (emotional changes); body image and self-esteem; safer relationships

Yr 9: Sex and the law; contraception; STIs; sexting, homophobic bullying

Yr 10: Sex and relationships; contraception, safer relationships (age of consent)

Yr 11: STIs; teenage pregnancy, substance misuse and sex

**The aims of PSE are:**

- Develop learners' self esteem and sense of personal responsibility
- Promote self- respect, respect for others and celebrate diversity
- Equip learners to live safe, healthy lives
- Prepare learners for the choices and opportunities of lifelong learning
- Empower learners to participate in their schools and communities as active responsible citizens locally, nationally and globally
- Foster positive attitudes and behaviour towards the principles of sustainable development and global citizenship
- Prepare learners for the challenges, choices and responsibilities of work and adult life

**The following aspects of PSE provide the framework for the schools PSE programme:**

- Active citizenship
- Health and emotional well-being
- Moral and spiritual development
- Preparing for lifelong learning

- Sustainable development and global citizenship

Examples of the way these aspects are covered are:

- Planned PSE lessons KS3.
- As part of the Welsh Bacculaureate arrangements in KS4 and the Sixth Form.
- Planned teaching of relevant knowledge and understanding, skills, values and attitudes within the National Curriculum subjects and RE.
- The pastoral care system and assemblies
- Careers education, progress file lessons and work related activities
- Monitoring of progress and recording achievements
- Links and involvement with the community
- Extra curricular activities
- Eco-club
- Healthy Schools
- Collective worship
- Eco-day
- Links with Bukonde Secondary School in Uganda

### **Careers and the world of work**

CWW is a part of the basic curriculum for all 11-16 year olds. It is also part of the requirements of the learning core of learning pathways for 14-19 year olds.

The school works closely with Careers Wales on this programme.

The aims are to:

- Explore the attitudes and values required for employability and lifelong learning
- Plan and manage their pathway through the range of opportunities in learning and work
- Make effective career choices
- Become entrepreneurial
- Flourish in a variety of work settings
- Become motivated, set long term goals and overcome barriers
- See the relevance of their studies to their life and work
- Develop key skills and other skills required by employers
- Prepare for the challenges, choices and responsibilities of work and adult life

The school works in partnership with Careers Wales in providing;

- Careers Guidance in one to one interviews and group works,
- Education Business links for enterprise and entrepreneurial activities

Pupils have careers education as part of the PSE programme in KS3, KS4 and as part of the WBQ lessons in KS4 and the Sixth Form.

The school offers:

- all pupils in years 7 –11 to take part in enterprise and entrepreneurial activities where appropriate
- all year 12 pupils to take part in a team enterprise activity as part of the WBQ
- all pupils to have the opportunity to listen to outside speakers from the world of work
- all pupils have the opportunity to take a vocationally related course for GCSE and AS/AL
- the school takes advantage of the teacher placement schemes and employer support with vocational courses.

### **Procedures for reviewing effectiveness**

The effectiveness of the PSE programme, including SRE, is reviewed by the PSE Co-ordinator. A sample of pupils and staff are asked to complete questionnaires to evaluate the content and the learning experiences gained from the course. Additionally staff can be asked to feedback on their experiences of

working with invited speakers. Learning Walks take place on a regular basis as do pupil interviews. Pupil folders are also reviewed across Key Stage Three annually.

## **Statements on Specific Issues included in SRE**

### **Abortion**

Our aim is to present a balanced view of the arguments concerning abortion. Pupils are helped to distinguish between fact and opinion. The approach respects a range of religious beliefs and recognises that some pupils may have friends or relatives who have had an abortion. It is an emotive subject and staff will sensitively endeavour to ensure that all individual's opinions are respected. Pupils will be given the opportunity to explore all the dilemmas raised by the subject of abortion, hopefully creating a greater awareness of the benefits of delaying sexual activity.

### **The Protected Characteristics**

The National Assembly Circular 11/02 states "*It is important that young people develop an understanding and respect for others regardless of their developing sexual orientation. They should be encouraged to respect and recognise diversity and differences in human life.*" SRE is important in breaking down stereotypes and helping pupils to counteract prejudice and victimisation. Every pupil should be able to develop self-esteem and be respected, irrespective of their perceived sexuality.

SRE has a responsibility to address issues of sexual health.

### **Contraception**

Staff provide general advice about contraception to groups of pupils. It is our task to make sure that this knowledge is accurate although appropriate to the child's age and experience. It is recognised that pupils need to assimilate knowledge and understanding of contraception within a moral framework some time before they consider seeking personal contraceptive advice. In Year 10/11 pupils will have a visit from the school nurse to ensure that they have a full understanding of contraception and where they can seek advice from.

Staff are instructed that they must not give advice about contraception to individual pupils under the legal age of consent. Pupils are advised to discuss the matter with their parents or a medical practitioner.

### **The role of the School Nurse**

The school nurse is a qualified nurse with experience of giving advice to young people. They will always inform the pupils of the dangers of becoming sexually active at too young an age and will inform them of the legal position. However, the nurse's prime concern is with the health and welfare of the pupil and they are permitted to use their professional skills in deciding what advice to give a pupil.

### **Confidentiality and Child Protection**

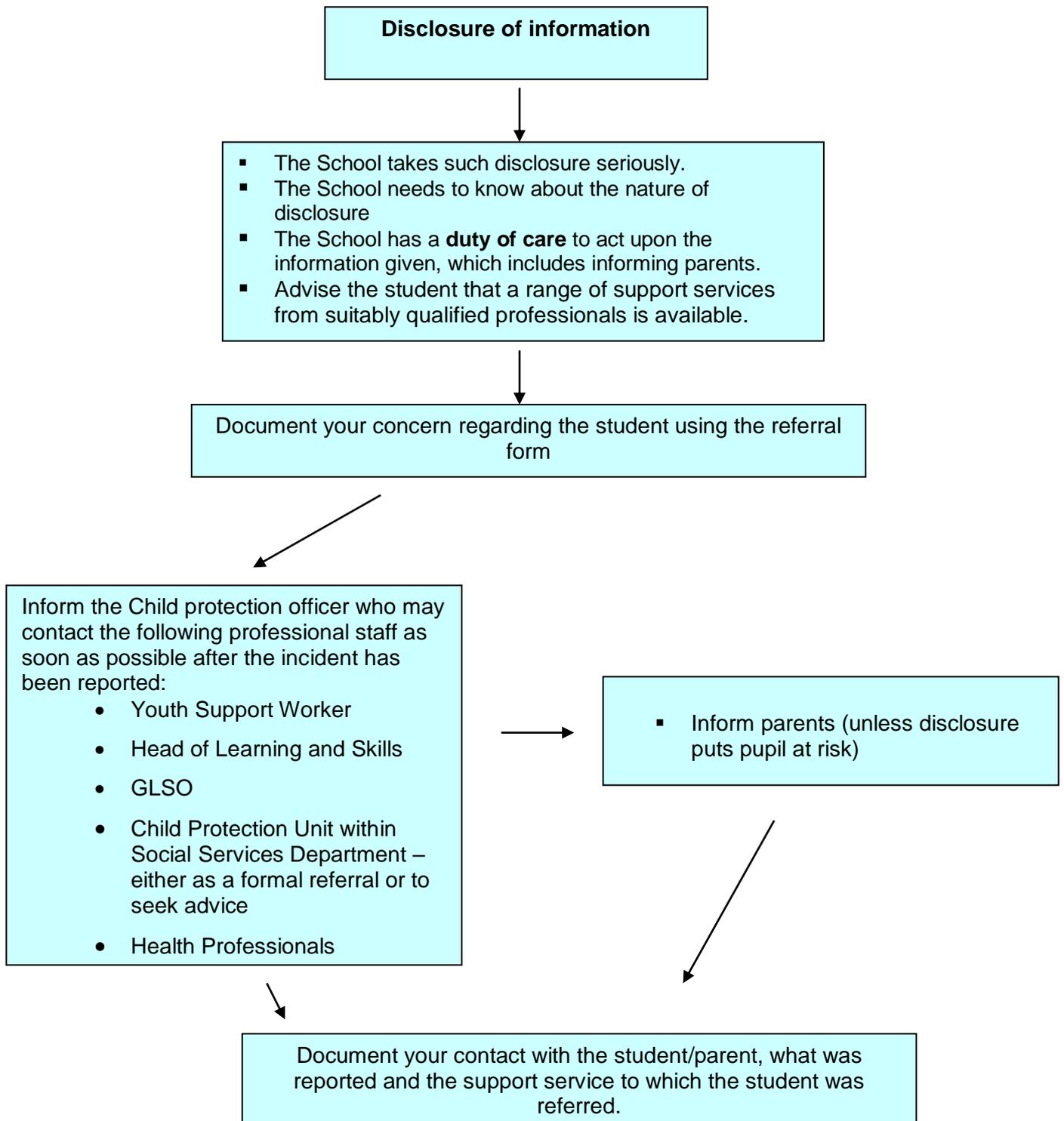
Staff are not permitted to guarantee confidentiality to pupils. Whenever they believe that a pupil is involved in illegal or dangerous behaviour inside or outside school they have a duty to inform senior staff. Similarly if a child is being abused in any way a teacher is obliged to report it, even if the pupil asks them not to. Staff are required to make it clear that they cannot maintain confidentiality.

If a member of staff suspects or knows of abuse they will refer the matter to the 'Child Protection Co-ordinator'.

### **Sexual Activity**

Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, "a child aged 12 or under is not capable of consenting to sexual activity". If a child under the age of 13(i.e. 12 or under) makes a disclosure of this nature then the 'Child Protection Officer' should be informed. A referral to social services is likely, based on the presumption that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm. If a

young person aged 13 to 15 years of age discloses underage sex, this should be referred to the 'Child Protection Officer' who will document the information, and any action taken (which may involve informing parents), including where a decision is taken not to share information (where it is felt that the disclosure of such information may put the pupil at risk). See Child Protection Policy



## **Involvement of Health Professionals and visitors**

SRE in Treorchy Comprehensive benefits from the expertise and professionalism of guest speakers. All visitors contributing to SRE are aware of our policy and the content and nature of their presentations are discussed before they enter the classroom. These lessons are part of the planned curriculum and are often designed to meet our requirements. A member of staff remains with the class at all times and so ensures that visitors operate within Treorchy School's SRE policy.

## **Working with parents**

The teaching of some aspects of SRE might concern some parents and so we ensure that the SRE policy is on the school website, and copies available for all parents to see at school. Staff can discuss PSE lessons at the annual parents' evenings. The PSE Co-ordinator is available to meet with parents who would like to discuss the SRE policy or programme.

## **Withdrawal**

Under section 405 of the Education Act 1996 parents have the right to withdraw their children from SRE, except when such education is part of the National Curriculum. Any parent who wishes to exercise this right should inform the Headteacher at the school. Parents do not have to give reasons for their decisions and they do not have to indicate what other arrangements they intend to make for providing sex education for their children. If parents have concerns about specific aspects of the course or need further information they should discuss their concerns with the PSE Co-ordinator.

Compiled by: J H Davies, Assistant Headteacher	Revision Number: 5
Approved by: SMT, Leadership Forum, Governing Body	Revision date: May 18 Person Responsible for Revision: K Irvine