



POLICY ON SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

Introduction

In accordance with section 1 of the Education Reform Act 1988 and DFE Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) guidance July 2000, any school curriculum should be one which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at the school and of society and prepares such students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. This includes giving all students the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive programme of SRE education during their school careers.

The Royal Ballet School seeks to follow those guidelines offered by the Government to maintained schools by ensuring that Sex and Relationship Education (including education about HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) is provided:

- a) for all registered students
- b) in such a manner as to encourage the students to have regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.

The parents of a student aged 15 or under may, if they wish, withdraw that student from all or part of the Sex and Relationship Education provided in the PSHE programme. Students may not be withdrawn from any SRE work that forms part of the examined science specification. Any queries or concerns should, in the first instance be addressed to the Head of Lower School. No reasons need to be given by parents wishing to withdraw their child, but a written application will be necessary. Parents considering withdrawal should give thought to the fact that a child's ignorance or misinformation of such matters could result in embarrassment, distress and possible exploitation. It is likely that they will receive the information second-hand from their friends, possibly inaccurately, outside the classroom.

Aims and Objectives of Sex and Relationship Education at The Royal Ballet School

Although not bound by the legislation applied to the maintained sector, The Royal Ballet School recognizes that the needs of our students for information and guidance are no different from those of students elsewhere. The school therefore offers a comprehensive programme of Sex and Relationship Education, provided through specific lectures and PSHE lessons and also through other curriculum areas such as science, English and drama. The School aims to:

- a) inform students about moral, emotional and health issues to enable them to make considered judgments and informed decisions when developing their own code of living
- b) contribute to students' learning about relationships, attitudes and feelings and how people live and work together
- c) help students to recognize the unique nature of each individual and encourage them to understand the importance of loving relationships based on mutual respect
- d) help students recognize their sexual nature as a part of their whole personality; this determines what a person is and not what they can do
- e) reassure students that sexual development is a normal part of growing up. By presenting relevant facts, this will help them to come to terms with the emotional upheaval of adolescence.

Organization

At Lower School, Sex and Relationship Education is primarily delivered through PSHE and within the science department, although some of the aspects will be covered by other subject areas. The Head of PSHE, in consultation with the Head of Science, will be responsible for the planning and delivery of the Sex and Relationship Education programme at Lower School, using a wide variety of resources. Outside speakers will be used to deliver parts of the Sex and Relationship Education programme at both Upper School and Lower School. These will be selected by the Head of PSHE, Head of Lower School and the Academic and Pastoral Head.

The effectiveness of the Sex and Relationship Education Programme at Lower School will be reviewed annually by the Head of PSHE using student and staff feedback; at Upper School by the Academic and Pastoral Head in conjunction with the Head of Vocational Studies.

Specific Issues Statements

Issues such as contraception, homosexuality, abortion, AIDS, HIV and STIs will be dealt with on a factual basis. No attempt will be made to promote one particular viewpoint but students will be encouraged to evaluate the moral implications involved.

Teaching will be to the group as a whole. The Government advises that teachers cannot act as confidential counsellors on sexual matters to individual students. Students with specific concerns or questions of a sexual or relationship nature are able to consult in confidence any member of staff with whom they feel comfortable. This might include:

- a) House Staff, their Tutor, the School Nurse or the Counsellor at the Lower School
- b) House Staff, the Academic and Pastoral Head, the School doctor or the Counsellor at the Upper School.

All teachers at The Royal Ballet School are aware of the Child Protection procedures regarding sexual and other types of abuse. All teachers and other staff members who are required and willing to teach SRE will have relevant training and resources.

Communication with Parents

There will be opportunities for parents to discuss any concerns with the Head of PSHE or the Head of Science, at parent / teacher mornings and to view resources and materials used in Sex and Relationship Education teaching on request.

LOWER SCHOOL

Programme of study for SRE

Year 7

Science

- a) 4/5 weeks Human Reproduction and cells topic Autumn Term: including the menstrual cycle, in vitro fertilisation, the development of the foetus and the physical and emotional changes that take place during adolescence.
- b) DVD box set 'The Human Body' presented by Sir Robert Winston with worksheets and teacher led discussion:
 - Prog 4 - 'Raging teens' covering body changes
 - Prog 2 - 'An every day miracle' covering pre-conception, conception, development of pregnancy and birth follows a married couple DVD graphic, including nudity, enacted intercourse and an actual birth. PG, originally shown on BBC1 before watershed.

PSHE

- a) Physical and emotional changes at puberty (1). This will take the form of frequently asked questions & answers collected and prepared in advance and placed in central resource library.
- b) 'Evaluate Team' visiting speakers: 'This is your life': influences (family, friends, media); goals; healthy and unhealthy choices (smoking, drugs, solvents); peer pressure; assertiveness; small section on teenage pregnancy and STIs; the importance of choices because you are important.

Year 8

English

- a) Emerging sexual identity described in 'Billy Elliot'.
- b) Choices: 'sleeping together', conflicts with parents over partners in Shakespearean plays.

Science

Diet and pregnancy.

PSHE

Sex and Relationship Education CD Rom – for ages 9-11: Physical and emotional changes at puberty (2) – relationships focus; discussion of questions raised.

Year 9

English

- a) *Private Peaceful*: teenage pregnancy.
- b) Relationships including marriage and sex in Shakespeare.

Science

- a) The way in which hormonal control occurs, including the effects of sex hormones, medical uses of hormones and the control and promotion of fertility.
- b) STIs and contraceptives including an awareness of HIV and AIDS.

PSHE

- a) 'Sex - what is it really all about?'
- b) 'Contraception 1'
- c) 'Sexual Health'
- d) Second visit of Evaluate Team: 'Sex - How Safe?': focus on what influences their decisions about sex – media pressures, peer pressure, music, alcohol; risks and consequences eg pregnancy, contraception, teen pregnancy, abortion, adoption, keeping the baby; info on contraception and STIs; section on marriage and relationships, waiting; emphasis is 'you are very special'.

Year 10

Science

- a) Revision of Year 9 Biology SRE topics.
- b) Human genetics.

Geography

- a) Population policies – controlling birth rates.
- b) Demography of HIV incidents.

Maths

Probability for spread of sexual diseases.

PSHE

'Contraception 2' (to time with World AIDS Day). Visit from Local Health Authority Nurse to give a talk on STD in particular Chlamydia.

Year 11

Science

Revision of Year 9 and 10 Biology SRE topics.

PSHE

- a) 'Relationships' (partners, marriage)
- b) 'Contraception 3' and 'Sexual Health 2'
- c) 'Sexual personal safety'
- d) Third visit of 'Evaluate Team' 'Just the one'. What influences their decisions about sex and whether to become sexually active or to wait. How alcohol influences decision making. Different views of boys and girls to sex and love. Friendships, marriage and relationships.

UPPER SCHOOL

The programme is based on talks given by the School doctor on sex and relationships issues, specifically covering contraception and sexually transmitted diseases. All students have access to the School Counsellor, the School doctor, the pastoral staff or to a GP for advice on problems involving sex and/or relationships.