



POLICY FOR SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

This policy takes account of the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance document published by the DCSF, the College's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy.

A. Purpose

Within a clear moral and scientific framework enable student's to acquire knowledge and understanding with respect to sex and relationship education whilst positively developing their attitudes and values and their personal and social skills.

B. Objectives

The College intends to enable students to:

1. Acquire scientific knowledge of the reproductive process which will help them to counteract myths and folklore and stereotypical attitudes, which they may encounter.
2. Learn in an objective and balanced way to enable them to understand the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in modern day society.
3. Appreciate the benefits of a stable family life.
4. Understand the responsibilities of parenthood.
5. Understand what is and is not legal in sexual matters.
6. Understand the need for self restraint, dignity and respect for both themselves and others.
7. Recognise the physical, moral and emotional risks of promiscuous behaviour.
8. Learn in an atmosphere where questions about the reproductive processes can be asked and answered without embarrassment in a way that is appropriate to the individual involved.
9. Acquire a vocabulary for such discussion which is understandable and uses appropriate terminology and language. (Explanation of certain colloquialisms may be necessary but their use should be avoided).
10. Explore their attitudes and those of others to enable them to make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions about the attitudes and behaviour they will adopt in adolescence and adulthood.
11. Promote an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of both males and females in sexual matters.
12. Work with relevant agencies as and when appropriate.

C. Moral and Values Framework

The Sex and Relationship Education programme of the College will:

1. Provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the process of human reproduction, presented in an objective, balanced and sensitive way.
2. Enable the acquisition of understanding and development of attitudes which prepare pupils to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.
3. Develop awareness of the physical, emotional and moral implications and also the risks of certain types of behaviour.
4. Bring about an appreciation of the value of marriage and a stable family life, the responsibilities of parenthood and the need to behave responsibly.
5. Be sensitive to the fact that many family backgrounds do not reflect such values and experience, but should also help pupils, whatever their circumstances, to raise their sights.

D. Content Headings for College Sex and Relationship Education Programme

1. Physical and emotional changes during adolescence
2. Biological aspects of human reproduction
3. Personal relationships and self esteem
4. Methods of contraception/Abortion/In vitro fertilisation/Embryo experimentation
5. STD's and HIV/AIDS
6. Preventative health care
7. Marriage/Parenthood/Divorce/Partnerships/the impact of loss, separation and bereavement. Organisations offering support in human relationships.
8. Moral values held by different cultures and groups.
9. Concept of stereotyping and its various forms.
10. Sexuality and sexual activity and their importance in relationships.
11. The range of sexual attitudes and behaviours in present day society.
12. Sexual harassment and its effects on individuals.
13. The rights of the individual in sexual matters (including the legal implications)

E. Equal Opportunities

Landau Forte College is committed to the principle that every student is entitled to sex and relationship education appropriate to their age and maturity and will make every effort to ensure that this is available irrespective of ability, gender, or cultural, ethnic or religious background.

F. Organisation of College Sex Education

The organisation and delivery of sex education within the College will be the responsibility of a specialist delivery team from both the Science and Religious Education teams. Staff training and development will be provided for this team to develop a unified approach on methodology and the handling of controversial topics.

It is recognised that, in the role of Personal Tutor, staff may be required to individually discuss with students matters relating to sex education. With this in mind staff training and development will be provided to raise awareness of the College policy and develop strategies and approaches for dealing with these issues.

In KS3, KS4 and Post 16 sex education will be delivered to mixed gender groups but on occasions it may be appropriate to separate genders to give opportunity for discussion of issues which one or the other gender may find embarrassing.

All units of work will be evaluated to review the effectiveness of the programme. These responses will be taken into consideration when reviewing and developing future units of work.

G. Specific Issues Statements

1. A student may be withdrawn by a parent from the sex education programme (excluding the area covered by the National Curriculum for Science). It is not necessary for a parent to supply a reason for the withdrawal. When this occurs the College will provide an appropriate alternative learning experience for such students. Any such request for withdrawal must be made in writing to the Principal.
2. Particular care is exercised in relation to contraceptive advice to students under sixteen, for whom sexual intercourse is unlawful. The general rule is that giving an individual advice on such matters without parental knowledge or consent is an inappropriate exercise of a Tutor's responsibilities. Accordingly a Tutor approached by an individual student for specific advice on contraception or other aspects of sexual behaviour will encourage the student to seek advice from his/her parents and if appropriate from the relevant health service professional (e.g. the student's GP or the College's Visiting Health Care professional). Where the circumstances are such as to lead the Tutor to believe that the student has embarked upon, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which is likely to place him or her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, the Tutor has a general responsibility to ensure that the student is aware of the implications and is urged to seek advice as above. In such circumstances the Tutor will inform the Senior Leader responsible for Child Protection and Safeguarding.
3. The Senior Leader responsible for Child Protection and Safeguarding will arrange support for the student and where the student is under age for the parents to be made aware, preferably by the student himself or herself. Whether specialist external support services (including school health professionals) should be involved will depend on the particular circumstances.
4. If, in the course of sex and relationship education a student raises an explicit concern which leads the tutor to suspect that child abuse is involved, the Tutor should refer this matter immediately and directly to the Senior Leader responsible for Child Protection and Safeguarding.

H. Working with Parents

An information evening will be held for parents of year 7 which will:

1. Present the College Policy for Sex Education.
2. Inform parents\carers of the detail and the structure and content of the sex education programme.
3. Provide an opportunity for comment from parents.
4. Explain the parental right to withdraw a student.

In response to feedback from parents further meetings may be arranged to address areas of concern or changes to Government policy on Sex and Relationship Education.

Reviewed: November 2008