

Caldicot School
Ysgol Cil-y-Coed



Caldicot School

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

*Written in reference to Welsh Government Circular
019/2010*

November 2015

CALDICOT SCHOOL: SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

1. Opening Statement

- 1.1 Sex and Relationships Education is a statutory requirement for all children and young people in school. This policy will define Sex and Relationships Education and how it is delivered, monitored and evaluated at Caldicot School.
- 1.2 Sex and Relationships Education provides an understanding that positive, caring environments are essential for the development of a good self-image and that individuals are in charge of and responsible for their own bodies. It provides knowledge about the processes of reproduction, contraception, sexually transmitted infections and the nature of sexuality and relationships. It encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow pupils to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.
- 1.3 Caldicot School is committed to offering an education for the whole person; body, mind and spirit. Part of the make-up of most humans is that they are sexual beings. The Sex and Relationships Education programme at Caldicot aims to be a sensitive and responsible one which is set in a moral and social framework.
- 1.4 The prime responsibility for bringing up children rests with parents. Parents are key figures in helping their children cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings. The teaching offered by schools should be seen as complementary and supportive to the role of parents. In an attempt to achieve this, the 1988 Education Reform Act (Section 1) states that all pupils should be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well-planned programme of Sex and Relationships Education during their school careers through a curriculum which:
 - (a) "promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and of society; and
 - (b) prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life."
- 1.5 The Education Act 1996 states that the Governing Body and Headteacher shall take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that where Sex and Relationships Education is given to any registered pupils at a maintained school, it is given in such a manner as to encourage those pupils to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life. Sex and Relationships Education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum for all secondary school aged learners registered at a maintained school. Schools should also make, and keep up to date, a separate written statement of their policy with regard to the provision of Sex and Relationships Education, and make copies of the statement available for inspection (at all reasonable times) by parents of registered pupils at the school and provide a copy of the statement free of charge to any such parent who asks for one.
- 1.6 Sex and Relationships Education teaches pupils the importance of stable and loving personal relationships, respect, care and the building of successful relationships with friendship groups and the wider community. Where Sex

and Relationships Education is given, pupils should be taught about the nature and significance of marriage and its importance for family life and bringing up of children. Nevertheless, the Welsh Government recognises that there are strong and mutually supportive relationships outside of marriage. We live in a diverse society and pupils come from a variety of family backgrounds. Teachers should take care to approach all pupils with sensitivity and respect and ensure that there is no stigmatisation of pupils based on their home circumstances".(Sex and Relationships Education in Schools, Circular 019/2010, WAG 2010)

- 1.7 The Sex and Relationships Education delivery should be tailored not only to the age, but also to the understanding of pupils. Caldicot School aims to present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner. It will be set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law regarding sexual behaviour. Pupils will be encouraged to appreciate the value of committed relationships, a stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood. Such matters will be treated with sensitivity and great care will be taken to encourage all children to feel a sense of worth. Particular care will be taken when issues such as marital breakdown and divorce are dealt with.
- 1.8 **Definition of Sex and Relationships Education:** At Caldicot School Sex and Relationships Education is regarded as education about sexual matters within a values framework, focusing upon responsibility within caring, committed relationships. Among the things it will concentrate on are knowledge of the facts of human reproduction process and behaviour, HIV and Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases, contraception and abortion, and a consideration of the broader emotional and ethical dimensions of sexual attitudes.
- 1.9 **The parental right to withdraw their son or daughter from Sex Education lessons:** Section 405 of the Education Act 1996 states that if the parent of any pupil in attendance at a maintained school requests that he/she 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. In such cases, parents should write to the Chair of Governors, stating their objections. Please note parents are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the Deputy Headteacher (Safeguarding and Wellbeing), Mr S Mock.
- 1.10 **Advice to individual pupils:** It is understood that it is important to distinguish between the school's function of providing education generally about sexual matters and the giving of advice to individual pupils on these issues. It is understood that particular care must be exercised in relation to giving contraceptive advice to pupils under the age of sixteen, for whom sexual intercourse is unlawful. It is the general rule that no member of staff may give an individual advice on matters of contraception.

2. Aims

In the attempt to enable pupils to acquire knowledge, skills, responsible attitudes and behaviour with regard to Sex and Relationships Education, Caldicot School aims to provide a worthwhile educational experience for all its pupils which will present opportunities to:

- help pupils to consider the importance of dignity, respect for themselves and for others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs and views of others, loyalty and fidelity;
- understand the importance of stable, secure and loving relationships;
- develop a responsible attitude to sexual relationships;
- understand the laws relating to sexual behaviour;
- acknowledge the consequences and risks of sexual activity, including unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs);
- understand the links with other risk-taking behaviours, including the potential risks of online social networking;
- recognise cultural and social influences and resist unwanted pressure;
- negotiate their emerging sexual identity with confidence;
- know about the methods and availability of contraception and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections;
- understand the responsibilities of parents;
- know how to access consistent, appropriate information on sexual health and well-being from a range of agencies.

3. Outcomes

The school is committed to achieving the following outcomes from this policy:

- The consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of contraception in terms of personal preference and social and moral implications.
- The discussion of issues such as conception, virginity, birth, child-rearing, abortion, sexually transmitted infections and technological developments which involve consideration of attitudes, values, beliefs and morality.
- Pupils will be made aware of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviour in present day society and recognise the importance of personal choice in managing relationships so that they do not present risks to health and personal safety.
- Pupils will be made aware that feeling positive about sexuality and sexual activity is important in relationships and that people have the right not to be sexually active.
- Pupils will understand the changing nature of sexuality over time and its impact on lifestyles, e.g. the menopause.
- Pupils will recognise that parenthood is a matter of choice.
- Pupils will be encouraged to critically analyse moral values and explore those held by different cultures and groups.
- Pupils will be encouraged to understand the concept of stereotyping and to discuss issues such as sexual harassment in terms of their effects on individuals.
- Pupils will understand aspects of legislation relating to sexual behaviour, gender and equal opportunities and made aware of the availability of statutory and voluntary organisations which offer support in human relationships.

4. Delivery

- 4.1 Sex and Relationships Education at Caldicot School is taught in a cross curricular way through Biology, Religious Studies and Personal Social Education. The diverse staffing and the variety of experience contained within this teaching body is seen as a valuable resource for the delivery of Sex and Relationships Education. The provision of Sex and Relationships Education is seen as progressive in terms of language, concepts and content which increases in depth and complexity as pupils progress through the school.

Throughout the course of teaching a variety of sensitive issues will inevitably be explored. It is recognised that an individual's sexuality is a highly personal matter. The teaching of Sex and Relationships Education at Caldicot School will place stress upon the need for understanding and awareness of a variety of sexual preferences across the spectrum of human sexuality.

It is intended that pupils will be given up-to-date information on a wide variety of contraceptive methods and, whilst general statements about the efficacy of these methods will be given, specific advice and guidance to individuals will not be made.

- 4.2 The Sex and Relationships Education programme is taught by class teachers in mixed gender groups wherever possible. Involvement of external agencies such as the school nursing team helps to enrich its delivery but does not replace the programme within the taught curriculum. Outside agencies are made aware of their role within the delivery of Sex and Relationships Education and are provided with a copy of the School's Sex and Relationships Education Policy.

5. Sex and Relationships Education Programme (SRE)

- 5.1 In Key Stage 3 the SRE programme will provide learners with the opportunity to understand the importance of keeping the mind and body safe and healthy along with the features of relationships including marriage. Learners will also be provided with opportunities through the context of relationships to learn about contraception, STIs and HIV. National Curriculum Science also offers pupils the opportunity to study the basic structure and function of cells, tissues, organs and organ systems and how they support vital life processes.
- 5.2 In Key Stage 4 the SRE programme will provide learners with the opportunity to accept personal responsibility of keeping the mind and body safe and healthy along with developing a responsible attitude towards personal relationships. Learners will also be provided with opportunities to learn about the importance of sexual health and the risks involved in sexual activity including potential sexual exploitation and the range of sexual attitudes, relationships and behaviours in society.
- 5.3 Caldicot School ensures that the SRE programme meets the needs of all pupils. The SRE programme and the strategies for learning are adopted to meet individual learning needs. Some mainstream ALN pupils and all pupils registered within the Monmouthshire SNRB are provided with extra support in small groups or one to one sessions to reinforce SRE learning.
- 5.4 **Teaching sensitive issues:** Some aspects of the SRE programme will be sensitive to pupils and adults and Caldicot School endeavours to lessen any concerns through its well-planned programme; with access to balanced

factual information. Each class will establish clear ground rules to create a balance between pupils feeling respected and safe, and protecting individual privacy. The personal beliefs and attitudes of teachers will not influence the teaching of SRE and both pupils and teachers will avoid sharing personal information. Distancing techniques will also be used to help pupils to discuss sensitive issues and develop their decision-making skills in a 'safe' environment. As part of the SRE programme all teachers will be consistent in their use of correct and appropriate terminology.

5.5 **Working with parents/carers and the wider community:** The School will work with parents/carers to build positive and supporting relationships in the relation to the teaching of SRE by:

- informing parents/carers about contents of the SRE policy via the school prospectus;
- consulting with parents/carers about the content of the policy and involve them in the reviewing process;
- discussing any issues that parents may have in relation to this policy or the delivery of SRE.

5.6 **Safeguarding:** Caldicot School is committed to ensure that all staff are appropriately trained in Safeguarding Procedures and are fully aware of the School's Safeguarding Policy and of their responsibilities in its application. Pupils are addressed during assemblies at the beginning of each academic year by the Deputy Headteacher (Safeguarding and Wellbeing), Mr S Mock, who outlines the School's Safeguarding Policy, procedure and practice.

6. **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

6.1 Mr S Mock, Deputy Headteacher (Safeguarding and Wellbeing), will annually review the policy and make any further recommendations to the Governing Body.

6.2 The Governing Body, in consultation with the Headteacher, the Pupil Liaison Group, staff and parents, will regularly review this policy and associated procedures in order to ensure its continuing effectiveness.