

# THE APOLLO EDUCATION PROJECT

## The Apollo Education Project Policy: Sex & Relationships Education Policy

Policies at The Apollo Education Project are written in accordance with the five outcomes contained within Every Child Matters:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic wellbeing

**Member of staff responsible:** Dr Mick Clarke

### Apollo Education Project Statement

Sex and relationship education is an important part of the curriculum at Apollo Education Project which will help educate pupils to develop caring and stable relationships.

### Aims of the policy

The sex and relationship education within the Project aims to provide opportunities for pupils to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and become informed and active citizens. The work aims to be delivered in an accepting and honest way which enables young people, whatever their gender and/or sexuality, to contribute.

### Objectives of the policy

- To develop pupils' confidence and self esteem
- To develop pupils' knowledge about healthier and safer lifestyles in order that they are able to make informed decisions
- To develop pupils' knowledge and understanding about the sexual health services that are available
- To encourage an understanding in young people about what is meant by effective and fulfilling relationships.
- To provide opportunities for young people to develop an understanding of, and respect for, difference
- To enable young people to develop the skills necessary to protect themselves from exploitation
- To enable young people to develop the ability to understand the consequences of their decisions and actions

## **Moral and Values framework**

The sex and relationship education programme will reflect the Project's ethos and demonstrate and encourage the following values:

- Respect for self and others
- Respect for difference
- Responsibility for their own actions
- Responsibility for their family, friends and wider community
- The rights of the individual
- Equality

## **Delivery**

The work in this area of the curriculum should be delivered within the aims and objectives stated above and delivered using a variety of methods e.g. group work, role play and discussions. The work will be delivered in a mixture of single and mixed gender groups.

Young people will be consulted before the programme begins in order to ascertain their needs and they will be involved in evaluating the programme.

Resources will be provided when necessary

## **Working with parents**

The Project is committed to working with parents as part of its work towards being a healthy school. Parents can under section 405 of the Education Act 1996 withdraw their child from sex and relationship education lessons.

"If any parent of any pupil requests that s/he may be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education at the school, the pupil shall, in so far as the education is compromised in the National Curriculum, be excused until the request is withdrawn"

We believe this is an entitlement and important area of learning for all pupils, however, parents can contact the Director to discuss these issues further in the Project.

Sex and relationship education materials will be available to parents who wish to supplement the Project's programme.

Young people who are absent from the Project during sex and relationship education will receive such education lessons as soon as possible after their return to the Project.

## **Child Protection**

Apollo Education Project is committed to safeguarding the welfare and protection of pupils. We follow county and LEA guidelines in the recruitment and checking of staff.

The school has a child protection policy, which is available in the school handbook and at request.

### **Confidentiality**

It is the responsibility of the Project to support young people but no individual should guarantee a child absolute confidentiality. Young people should be made aware that 'confidences' may be shared among parents and the staff of the Project if that is seen to be beneficial for the young person's well being and/or the teacher's ability to deal with the issue. Young people should be made aware that under the Children Act 1989, adults may do what is reasonable in all the circumstances of the case for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare.

### **Answering difficult questions**

Teachers should establish with the pupils a set of ground rules so that young people are aware of the parameters, for example:

- If a question is too personal.
- If the young person needs further support, refer them to an outside agency
- If a question is felt to be too explicit, acknowledge it give general guidance and refer for further information to the appropriate agency.
- If the answer to a question is not known –say so. The class and teacher can research the information together
- Any concern about sexual abuse should be followed up under the child protection procedures.

### **The use of other Educators**

The Project will follow the LEA policy as outlined in 'The use of educators from outside school' in the guidance for schools on Drug Education.

### **Procedures for Policy Monitoring and Evaluation**

Pupils and staff will be consulted about the content and delivery of sex and relationship programme through school council. This informs any further policy development. The overall responsibility for policy monitoring and evaluation remains with the Director.

To be reviewed: September 2016