

Belfast Model School for Girls

Achievement for All



Relationships and Sexuality Education

Agreed by Board of Governors: Jan 2007

To be reviewed: Jan 2010

Rationale

R.S.E is viewed to be a lifelong process, which includes the acquisition of knowledge, understanding, and skills, the development of attitudes, beliefs, and value about personal and social relationships in life, which should take place within a moral and social framework. The Belfast Model School for Girls is committed in its aims to provide “a secure moral framework where pupils can acquire the values which form the basis of a civilised society”.

Purposes

The purpose of the R.S.E programme is to enhance the overall personal, social, and moral development of all young people. It is about fostering self-esteem, a sense of moral responsibility, and the skills to make informed choices and discussions. The delivery of this programme should be within a framework of mutual trust, respect, and confidentiality, while allowing pupils the opportunity to discuss concerns with their teacher. By participating in our R.S.E. programme pupils should:

- develop self-awareness by understanding
- understand the concept of human reproduction and the responsibilities of parenthood
- consider and develop their own attitudes and values about sexual behaviour and respect the value of others.
- consider abstinence as a positive option, which is a reality to which, our pupils can aspire.
- develop coping strategies to counteract adverse peer pressure and media pressure in sexual matters.
- recognise potential sexual exploitation and develop confidence in dealing with situations.
- recognise the need to take responsibility for their own actions.
- develop an appreciation of the value of committed long term relationships and family life.
- understand the risks of irresponsible behaviour with special reference to pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and Aids.
- be informed of methods of self-protection, including contraception and awareness of the effects of alcohol and drugs in behaviour.

Guidelines

- R.S.E is delivered throughout the curriculum with special responsibility in Science, RE and P.S.H.E.
- Where appropriate, outside agencies may have input during class time.
- Parents are encouraged to be involved in their daughter’s R.S.E. programme where pupils attend outside agency classes parental consent is first obtained
- Teachers are encouraged to deal with R.S.E. issues sensitively.
- A variety of teaching methods will be used active learning, use of visual aids, videos and media texts.
- A contract of trust respect and confidentiality is created within a specific teaching group.
- Pupils have opportunities to express concerns to a member of staff.
- Teachers are encouraged to promote an informed and responsible approach to delivery of R.S.E.

These policy Guidelines are translated into action through other policies and procedures, for example:

Health Education Policy

Pastoral Care Policy

Child Protection Policy