

# UTC READING

## Sex and Relationships Policy

### Introduction

The Sex and Relationships Education Policy has been developed in accordance with the current requirements of the law, taking into account *the Children's Act 1989 and 2004* and *the Education Act 1993 and 2002*.

### Aims

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is an educational entitlement for all children and young people. It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development and sex, sexuality and sexual health. It enhances the self-worth and confidence of each individual and encourages mutually respectful relationships and empathy for others.

It has three main elements:

### Attitudes and Values

- Recognition of the value of family life, marriage, stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children
- Respect for self and others
- Exploration of moral dilemmas
- Development of critical thinking

### Personal and Social Skills

- Self-confidence, self-esteem and empathy for others
- Managing emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- Skills of choice to manage responsibility

### Knowledge and understanding

- Emotions and relationships
- Physical development
- Sexuality, reproduction, sexual health
- Information on local and national contraception and sexual health services
- Reasons for delaying sexual activity
- The avoidance of unplanned pregnancy
- Keeping safe from sexually transmitted infections (STI's)

The UTC provides a setting in which students can be offered appropriate teaching about Sex and Relationships Education. The purpose of SRE is to assist children and young people to prepare for adult life by supporting them through their physical, emotional and moral development and helping them to understand themselves, respect others and form and sustain healthy relationships. SRE is supported by the UTC's respective Science and Values Education curriculum and is inclusive of all students to ensure that they:

- Receive their sex education in the wider context of relationships
- Are prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life
- Develop positive attitudes to sexuality

Sex Education at UTC Reading is taught across all year groups up to and including the Sixth Form as part of the discrete curriculum of Values Education. Content is also delivered as part of the Key Stage 4 Science curriculum. Students in Year 10 and 11 receive two one hour-long sessions of SRE delivered by the Science teacher and outside agencies from the LA.

The programme is designed to support and complement the role of parents who have the prime responsibility in this sensitive area. The content is taught within the moral framework and ethos of the UTC's principles as stated in the Prospectus.

### **Summary of Programme Content**

The main aims of the Sex and Relationships Education programme are primarily to appreciate the values of family life and to promote the benefits of family life. Students are encouraged to recognise the responsibilities of parenthood and to respect themselves and others. Students are educated in the importance of behaving responsibly and respectfully in sexual matters. Moral and ethical issues are presented and discussed.

The programme looks at the biology of sexual maturation, focusing on the physical and emotional changes associated with puberty as well as the related issues of personal hygiene.

Students receive information about sexually transmitted infections including HIV and AIDS and the importance of practising safe sex. Students receive information about contraception and its importance in guarding against unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. The programme covers the legal implications of sexual behaviour.

Students are made aware of people and places they can go to for appropriate help or advice. Students in Year 10 and 11 attend two assemblies per year on the theme of relationships, choices and behaviour.

## **Partnership with Parents / Guardians**

Most of a student's informal sex and relationship education occurs within the family and the UTC's programme will compliment and build on this in co-operation with homes. Parents have the right to withdraw their child (ren) from all or part of the Sex and Relationships Education programme that is not included in the Programme of Study for the Science National Curriculum. Any parent wishing to withdraw a child from the programme should inform the Principal in writing of their decision.

Students who are withdrawn will be accommodated separately and will be set appropriate, alternative work to complete.

## **Information on Contraceptives**

The teaching about contraception should be carried out in a frank and open manner with students being given non-biased information about various forms of contraception. UTC employees do not give advice to individuals – advice can only be given through an appropriate external agency.

## **Information on Sexting**

The teaching about the dangers and harmfulness of Sexting should be carried out both relating to Online Safety and as part of our E-Safety commitment and also as part of our sex education programme led by the pastoral team.

Students will be taught of the legal issues of sending sexual images by social media/SMS/email or related technology and of the potential risks and dangers for their futures,

## **Confidentiality and Child Protection**

All UTC employees and external visitors who work with our students will be given a copy of this policy and our Child Protection Policy. UTC Senior Staff will be guided by the Frazer Guidelines, that provide guidance for health professional and details of these are provided in the DFE document Sex and Relation Education (2000). The Principal or the Child Protection Officer (DCPC) will have a discussion with any health professional or other adult before they start work with our students. This is to ensure they are familiar with our policy and expectations regarding correct practice and responding to issues, including those that may relate to Child Protection Matters.

Employees should ensure that students understand that they are not in a position to guarantee confidentiality.

Employees should ensure they are fully aware of UTC's procedures in dealing with Child Protection issues.

## **Equal Opportunities**

Sex and Relationships Education will be delivered equally to both genders, normally in mixed classes. There are, however, certain topics that may be delivered in single sex groupings e.g. Menstruation and Personal Hygiene.

**Topics delivered through the Sex and Relationships Education Programme**

Science ‘sex and relationships’

In year 10 the Science Programme of Study includes the knowledge and understanding of the effect of sex hormones and how sex is determined in humans. The medical use of hormones to control and promote fertility is discussed.

The Values Education programme will include the following topics within each year group:

Year 10	Abortion and the termination of pregnancy; the ethics surrounding these issues
Year 11	Testicular cancer, ovarian cancer, cervical cancer and breast cancer and the importance of health screening
Sixth Form	Sexuality and family life. The issues involved in parenthood. The ethics of sexual behaviour

**Methodology and Approach, including explicitness and delivery of controversial topics:**

Employees should make it explicit that lessons will cover essential knowledge as well as the opportunity for reflection and discussion. It is important that teachers can present the course information with a sense of openness yet that the opportunity for students to ask questions is there.

Questions about individual contraceptive advice cannot be dealt with by UTC teaching employees.

Information can only be given by the relevant external agency.

UTC employees should try to respond to student’s questions providing that answers are framed in terms of the promotion of family values.

Homosexuality does not feature as a topic in itself within the Values Education curriculum but there is acknowledgement that homosexual and lesbian relationships exist. References to the physical aspects of relationships should be avoided in discussion.

**Inclusion statement**

UTC has a commitment to ensure that the programme is relevant to all students and is taught in a way that is age and stage appropriate.

### **Evaluation, assessment and reporting to parents**

Evaluation and assessment including self-assessment are an integral part of SRE. A comment on a student's progress in SRE will be included in our reporting on Values Education to parents / guardians.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The policy is reviewed every three years, along with recommendations by the UTC Board of Governors.

Date created: April 2013

Date agreed: 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Date of last review: December 2016

Date of next review December 2019