



Fairfield
Farm
Trust

Charity No. 273924

Sex & Relationships Policy

Policy number	New or Reviewed	Date of next review	Responsibility
P015	October 2018	October 2019	Registered Manager

'Providing outstanding opportunities for people with learning difficulties to be successful'

1. Introduction

Sex and relationship education is imperative to help young people understand their physical and emotional development, which will enable them to make positive decisions in their lives. Young people should be enabled to understand emotions, boundaries, sexual health, and how to stay safe. Being informed is vital for people with learning disabilities and helps to develop useful life skills, and a positive and healthy attitude towards sexuality and well-being.

Relationships can bring pleasure and boost self-esteem and confidence, but they also involve risks such as being hurt, pregnancy, HIV and AIDS. It can be difficult to strike a balance between protecting people with learning disabilities from risks and allowing them to explore and develop wider personal and social relationships.

Young people and adults with learning disabilities are much less likely to have access to this kind of information because of attitudes towards disability and sexuality, lack of resources and lack of professionals qualified to provide the right kind of information and appropriate support.

1.1. This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Student Support Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Protection of Vulnerable Adults Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Student Codes of Behaviour
- Mental Capacity policy
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding
- Care Act 2014

1.2. It is written following guidelines and information from Scope and the British Institute for Learning Disabilities (bild), and in addition the Department of Education

1.3. Fairfield Farm College (FFC) is committed to ensuring that its students acquire accurate information, develop skills and positive values which will guide their decision making, judgements, relationships and behaviour throughout their life.

2. Philosophy statement

2.1. All staff, including volunteers at FFC, are required to support students following these philosophy statements:

- Whatever their gender, ability, culture, faith, sexuality and family background staff at FFC recognise that young people with a learning disability have a right to fulfilling sexual relationships
- Young people with a learning disability have the right to be educated and guided about reproductive processes, sexuality and sexual health using language and formats that are appropriate and differentiated
- It is essential that young people with a learning disability are prepared for their experiences and responsibilities in sexual relationships now and throughout their lives
- Young people with learning disability have a right to privacy and it is recognised that this is not always easy to achieve due to the close supervision that may be required in some aspects of their daily lives.

3. Aims

- 3.1. Fairfield Farm College's aim is to promote and work with young people to achieve the following aims:
- Support and educate young people to enable them to develop good relationships and recognise that there are different types of relationships.
 - Enable young people to develop confidence, self-esteem, emotional resilience and to feel good about themselves
 - Help young people understand their physical and emotional development.
 - Help young people to learn to take responsibility for their actions and choices, and to understand how their actions and choices can affect themselves and others
 - Support young people to be assertive and have autonomy over their own bodies
 - Enable young people to learn how to recognise and report abuse
 - Enable young people to develop safe and healthy lifestyles
 - Help young people find out what support and guidance related to sexual issues is available in the community
 - Help young people consider social and moral dilemmas
 - Show young people the positive aspects of a sexual relationship
 - Support young people to be able to make their own decisions about when they are ready to begin a sexual relationship in accordance with the law.
 - Support young people to understand the possible negative consequences of some kinds of sexual behaviour (e.g. promiscuity, being in a public place, unprotected sex)
 - Educate young people in respect of on-line grooming and sexual exploitation.

4. Process

- 4.1. Staff will reinforce the philosophy and aims of this sexual relationships policy both formally and informally, within all settings and within all areas of the curriculum.
- 4.2. Opportunities to discuss all aspects of sexual development, sexuality and sexual health will be followed up in all settings and contexts as they arise, within groups or on a one to one basis with prior agreement and advice from a manager to promote safeguarding.
- 4.3. Staff at FFC will work with the local authority, and external organisations e.g. the health authority and medical practitioners.
Staff will work with the young person to source information to achieve the best outcomes and help them support young people to forge useful links with organisations that could help them in their lives both now and in the future.

5. Boundaries

- 5.1. Residential students who have commenced their course and decided that they are ready to have a sexual relationship will be given confidential guidance and support to manage this safely.
- 5.2. All young people at Fairfield Farm College are entitled to confidential advice about sexual health matters. All young people are encouraged to share their concerns with their parents/carers whenever possible however staff at the college recognise that this is not always possible or advisable and may not share information relating to the advice requested/received without the permission of the young person.

When a young person requests advice regarding sexual matters staff give factual and non-judgemental advice and will refer to tutors, keyworkers, managers and external agencies for further support if necessary. We have a qualified talk therapist available onsite to work in a specific or more focussed manner with individual young people.

- 5.3. The subject of sex, and relationships, such as contraception, sexual health, online safety, grooming, consent etc. are discussed through the tutorial programme. Sessions and content are highly tailored to the needs of the young people, contextualised and also delivered in a personalised way. For further information, please see the tutorial guidance.
- 5.4. In some instances it may be deemed necessary to appoint an independent advocate and/or conduct a mental capacity assessment to ascertain an individual student's ability and support them to make decisions and choices.
- 5.5. This policy will be made freely available to users of the services, their families and carers, and to all staff including volunteers at Fairfield Farm College.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Tanya Takle
Registered Manager
October 2018