

Relationships and Sexual Education and Wellbeing Policy

This policy outlines Young Epilepsy's approach to education for all the children and young people we support, on relationships and their sexual wellbeing. The policy and procedure complies with relevant legislation and guidance on sexual relationships, including for those young adults with learning difficulties.

Young Epilepsy is committed to the teaching of RSE and promoting the understanding and knowledge of our students around healthy relationships, sex education and consent as well as ensuring our students know their rights.

Young Epilepsy recognises that relationships and sexuality are important components of our students' lives. They have the right to receive both support and education regarding sexual health, wellbeing and relationships to support them in developing their own sexual identity. Students also have the right to freedom from abuse and exploitation and so we must ensure this is also upheld.

Young Epilepsy believes that empowering students with the knowledge to make informed decisions and choices with regards to sex, sexual health and relationships will lead to a safer and more fulfilling life. Both our residential and education services will offer support and guidance to students in this area as appropriate to their needs.

Young Epilepsy works closely with parents, families and carers and values their support. However, we also recognise it is natural that not all young people are keen to discuss sex and relationships with parents, family or carers and they may wish to gather information from other sources. Although staff will not discuss a student's views about a topic with their parents without permission from the student, the member of staff will share the topic or areas of learning. Teaching staff can provide information about the programme of study in this area.

Young Epilepsy encourages student advocacy and students will be assumed to have capacity (as defined by the Mental Capacity Act 2005) when making decisions unless otherwise assessed.

In addition to the above, the student's right to privacy will be respected at all times. However it will be made clear to students that staff at Young Epilepsy will respect this unless they deem the student is at risk; in such circumstances they have a responsibility to report the concern to the Young Epilepsy Safeguarding Team.

Due to the complex needs of our students, RSE teaching will be individualised to the student and coverage of the curriculum will be at the class teachers discretion after assessment of their current knowledge around the subject.

Baseline assessments and where applicable risk assessments will be completed to ascertain the students' prior knowledge, necessary learning and the relevance of learning in sex and relationships education SRE. Programmes will be put together using or adapting the criteria to suit student need and to develop a meaningful programme for the individual.

Students receive education focusing on consent and their individual rights. They are also made aware of who they can talk to in school or at home if they are worried or concerned about their relationships. The safeguarding team have their pictures and numbers displayed in the school and an independent advocacy service is available to all students.

Young Epilepsy aims to ensure that the environment for all students is free from exploitation and promotes equality and diversity, safety, independence and informed choices. This policy and related guidelines can be made available in augmentative alternative communication (ACC) if required.

This policy is agreed by the Residential Service Quality Committee and will be implemented by all departments.

Date: .10 May 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Gargon", written over a faint circular stamp.

**Signed:
Richard Gargon
Principal**

Date of next review: 1 February 2023