

Case study – introduction of sex and relationships education at Brudenell

Brudenell is an inner-city primary school with an 85 per cent EAL population, the majority of whom are of Pakistani origin.

Like all schools, we have broached the development of sex and relationships education (SRE) with sensitivity, especially in relation to our high proportion of Muslim children. We wanted to make SRE fit into the wider personal, social, health and citizenship education (PSHCE) curriculum rather than cover this as a one-off lesson at the end of Year 6.

We began in 2007 by attending a seminar about faith and values in SRE, led by Marilyn Raby, primary SRE consultant for Education Leeds, and Hansa Patel Kanwal, independent SRE consultant.

The next step was to gather a group of parent governors who were willing to work with the PSHCE co-ordinator to agree on what SRE meant in our school and what would be taught from foundation stage upwards – all fitting into our whole-school PSHCE lessons. This group also produced a leaflet, outlining the new SRE programme at Brudenell, which went out to all our parents.

In 2008/09 we taught puberty lessons to Years 5 and 6 as a part of a literacy unit on information leaflets. Before the unit, we held a parents' meeting to discuss any concerns about the lessons, and a group of about 12 parents attended. After the meeting none of them chose to remove their children from the lessons. The week went very well and the class teachers were very pleased with the outcomes.

In the summer 2009 we met with the health subcommittee of governors to explain the Year 6 unit, as we wanted to begin preparing to teach the next stage which covers sexual intercourse, foetal development and birth. The governors agreed to go ahead. A further pair of governors

helped the deputy headteacher to select video material appropriate for our school.

We have recently held two parents' meetings – one to again show the Year 5 material to the new Year 5 parents, and a second meeting to inform Year 6 parents of the further lessons we will be doing to cover 'how are babies made?'. Throughout these meetings we are slowly learning approaches which help our parents to feel more comfortable about coming along, and we have some useful suggestions to share.

The real success story was a Year 6 parent who attended the last meeting to discuss the revision of the unit, having taken part in the parents' meeting last year. A year ago she was very concerned about the content of the 'Boy Talk' DVD and argued against showing all of it to her son. However, she allowed him to attend the lesson and, a year on, was full of praise for how the lessons had helped him to speak maturely at home about growing up and to make sure he was washing himself properly. Recently, this parent has encouraged other parents to think more openly and be braver in recognising their children were growing up.

We still have a long way to go in ensuring that the other areas of SRE are taught effectively through the rest of school, that issues such as homosexuality and media images are dealt with appropriately, and that we continue to engage parents in the partnership of supporting their children to grow up. But we also feel that we have moved on a long way from the one-off 'sex talk' lesson at the end of Year 6 to a more coherent and useful approach which places relationships and sexual health into context for our children and families.

Lesley McKay,
Deputy headteacher
Brudenell Primary School

Welcome to the fifth edition of the teenage pregnancy newsletter.

Summer's here and we have a fantastic array of events happening across the city for young people over the next few months such as the We Love South Leeds Festival which will give young people a chance to take part in positive activities and engage with local services. In addition, Breeze on Tour will be taking place across the city once again. More information about these events can be found on the Family Hub.

We also have some positive news. The latest national and local conception rates among 15 to 17 year olds have shown a slight decrease.

A new young parents group is now running at Villages East Children's Centre on Mondays from 10.30am – 11.30am.

The group is open to young people who are already parents or are about to become one and is the ideal place to get to meet other young parents and have a chat and a drink. The centre also has toys and activities for the children.

If you know a young person who might be interested in attending you can contact the centre for more information, phone: 0113 2876873.

Sessions are held at Villages East Children's Centre, Great Preston C of E Primary School, Preston Lane, Leeds, LS26 8AR.

Parenting unit: Working with fathers resource kit

Leeds City Council's parenting unit has recently released a resource kit for all professionals working with fathers. The resource can be downloaded [here](#).

Teenage pregnancy and parenthood newsletter

The activity agreement

The activity agreement is aimed specifically at 16 to 17 year olds who are either receiving Job Seeker's Allowance, are faced with challenging circumstances, or have not been working, training or studying for some time. It's a programme of activities and learning that offers a unique opportunity to develop and fast-forward prospects for the future. The added bonus is that young people get paid for taking part.

A young person can qualify:

- if they become entitled to Job Seekers allowance they can be referred by their job centre plus advisor and/or connexions personal advisor as soon as their entitlement starts;
- if they have challenging circumstances such as being a parent or carer, a homeless person, a person with learning difficulties, or a substance misuser; or
- if they have been in education, employment or training for at least 26 weeks they can be referred by a connexions personal advisor providing they have actively supported the young person for six weeks.

Some of the programmes available include:

- health and wellbeing – outward bound residentials, confidence building;
- skills for living – human/parenting skills, problem-solving;
- continuing learning-literacy and numeracy, training and qualifications;
- business skills – admin and budgeting, working in teams and organisations;
- practical and creative skills – trade skills, music and media activities, creative drama work; and
- employment preparation – CV writing, job searching, work experience, interview preparation.

The maximum period for the programme is 20 weeks, but this can be tailored with a key worker to meet the young person's requirements. The hours a young person needs to do is also flexible.

For more information phone: **07734 236157**
or email: leeds@activityagreement.com.

Working with boys and young men events

Are you a frontline worker, working with young men or boys in inner east or inner south Leeds? Or do you have leadership responsibilities for work with young men or boys? If so, two forthcoming locality events are coming your way!

Inner south event - Tuesday 13 July 2010

9am to 4.15pm,
Hillside, Beeston Road, Leeds, LS11 8ND

Inner east event - Wednesday 14 July 2010

9am to 4.15pm,
Shine, Harehills Road, Leeds, LS8 5HS

In response to feedback from last year's inner east and inner south Teenage Pregnancy events, a key theme emerged around our need to improve our work with boys and young men. In response to this we are organising an event with guest speakers who will be drawing on local and national research and practice around the issues of working with young men and boys. The guest speakers are Professor Alan White of Leeds Metropolitan University, and Roger Olley, Fathers Plus.

The events will host a series of workshops covering the following themes;

- Young men and access to health services
- Exploring masculinity with boys and young men
- The barriers to engaging with young men, including teenage dads
- Working with Asian boys and young men
- Discussing sex and relationships with 9 to 11 year-old boys
- Locality action planning

This will be a fantastic opportunity for you to network with people working across the inner south on issues relating to the work with young boys and men, as well as hearing from our expert speakers.

Places are free but very limited.

To reserve a place email:

annie.devereux@renew-leeds.co.uk for inner east or clare.hepworth@renew-leeds.co.uk for inner south

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, or if you would like a copy of the sexual health training calendar 2010, please email: teenage.pregnancy@leeds.gov.uk