



An innovative and non-mainstream
Relationships and Sex Education Programme

Information Leaflet for Parents, Guardians and Carers

Will the SLIP Programme benefit my child?

SLIP is for any young person, age 18 or under (there is no lower age limit for referral to the programme) who, for whatever reason, did not engage, or is currently finding it difficult to engage, in Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) for secondary school age children, or in Relationships Education (RE) for primary school age children.

To be eligible for SLIP, this lack of engagement is impacting on their behaviour and attitude towards relationships and sex i.e. their behaviour and/or attitude is already putting them or others at risk, or could in the future if left unaddressed. Your child or teenager's lack of engagement in RSE could be due to, for example:

- missing a lot of school because of a family circumstances
- long periods of absence due to ill health
- being home schooled
- having a custodial sentence
- not finding it easy to take part in RSE sessions because they are shy/embarrassed/ find school in general difficult

DHIVERSE, Office B, Dales Brewery, Gwydir Street,
Cambridge, CB1 2LJ

T: 01223 508805

E: enquiries@dhiverse.org.uk W: dhiverse.org.uk

DHIVERSE is a working name of The Dales Trust.

Charity no: 1058307



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Background to DHIVERSE Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) the SLIP Programme

Dhiverse is a well established Sexual Health charity, set up in 1986. For over 25 years, Dhiverse has provided high quality and relevant RSE across Cambridgeshire and other parts of the region. We are commissioned by Public Health Cambridgeshire to provide mainstream RSE in schools.

At Dhiverse we are all about inclusivity and equality and we want everyone to have the opportunity to be equipped to make informed decisions around sexual health, healthy relationships, personal safety, consensual and pleasurable sexual activity. It is therefore essential that good RSE starts as soon as possible and that all young people have access to high quality and relevant RSE delivered through a range of methods to reflect the fact that not all young people learn, or want to learn, in the same way. However, regardless of how RSE is delivered, the aim must be to equip young people with the skills, knowledge and information they need to navigate and make decisions around relationships and sex in the 21st century. Our RSE work takes into account the *Department of Education Guidance (2014) 'Preparing Children for Life in Modern Britain'*.

At Dhiverse, we offer a range of non-mainstream RSE programmes that can be delivered in a non-educational or informal setting. '**SLIP**' is one of these programmes. SLIP stands for '*Sex, the Law, the Internet & Pornography*' and it is a non –judgemental, educational and informative RSE programme funded by '**BBC Children In Need**'. The programme is designed for young people who, for whatever reason, did not engage, or are currently finding it difficult to engage in RSE in school or other educational provision. SLIP can be provided to small groups or to individuals on a 1-1 basis. It is made up of 6 sessions, ideally delivered over 6 weeks and we cover one module/topic per session.

How can SLIP help my child?

SLIP can help your child to protect themselves by helping them to gain a better understanding of the law, what a 'healthy' relationship and 'safe' and consensual sex looks like modern day Britain. At Dhiverse, we aim to inform and educate your child with nothing but the facts. The programme is designed to be fun and interactive with lots of games and no writing. We are non-judgemental and want to give young people the space to make their own, fully informed decisions and the skills to keep themselves safe.

All RSE is delivered with a focus that young people should wait until they feel ready to have sex and actually..... it works! Research from sources such as Kirby (2007) and UNESCO (2009) has shown that good quality and informative RSE has had positive effects on young people's behaviour. Some programmes were found to reduce the frequency of sex as well as increasing the likelihood of young people using condoms and contraception when engaging for with sex for the first time (Kirby 2007). The fact that the Department of Education will make it compulsory for schools to provide RSE from September 2020 would seem to support this.

There has been no evidence to prove that RSE encourages or hastens young people to have sex for the first time, and that actually, comprehensive RSE is linked with young people waiting until they feel ready, having a better understanding of how to protect themselves from STIs and pregnancy as well as reducing the number of sexual partners that a young person has (Lindberg, 2012).

Age 10, is the legal age of criminal responsibility in the UK and therefore, the age that a child becomes responsible for their sexual behaviours. It is hugely important that young people have a right to comprehensive, high quality and relevant RSE during their development from child to adult so that ultimately they are equipped to safeguard themselves and others.

What topics are covered in SLIP?

- Communicating
- Am I Normal? (body image)
- Consent
- Abuse and Healthy Relationships
- Internet Safety
- Pornography

What Resources are used in the SLIP Programme?

Live Instagram accounts, a wide range of interactive game and activities, Interactive Apps, videos and film clips, quizzes and lots more! **We make it fun and interactive!**

How long is the SLIP Programme

The SLIP Programme is made up of 6 modules, with each module focusing on one of the topics above. Young people attend one module per week but there is some flexibility. The programme is open to groups or to individuals.

Useful websites and Apps for parents

NSPCC:	www.NSPCC.org.uk
Childline:	www.childline.org.uk
Think U Know?:	www.thinkuknow.co.uk
Zipit App:	an App developed by Childline
Net Aware:	https://www.net-aware.org.uk/

"I have learned a lot whilst on this course and have found the way the lesson is planned very helpful as there is lots of interactive activities, bringing a fun aspect to it."

SLIP Participant

**The SLIP Programme is
delivered by Diverse and
funded by
BBC Children In Need**



diverse
sexual health matters