



Information Booklet for Parents and Guardians

1. Is SLIP the right programme for my child?

SLIP stands for Sex, the Law, Internet and Porn and it is an alternative and age appropriate relationships and sex education programme. It is suitable for any young person age 9 to 24 who, for whatever reason, did not engage, or is currently finding it difficult to engage, in Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) or Relationships Education (RE), in school.

To be eligible for SLIP this lack of engagement is impacting on their behaviour and attitudes towards relationships and sex. These attitudes and behaviours could be putting themselves or others at risk of harm, or could do so in the future if left unaddressed.

Your child's lack of engagement in RSE or RE could be due to, for example:

- Education and/or behavioural difficulties
- Having a custodial sentence
- Finding it difficult to take part in RSE/RE sessions because they are shy/embarrassed/finding school in general difficult
- Missing a lot of school because of problems at home
- Long periods of absence due to ill health
- Learned behaviours
- Being home schooled

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dhiverse
sexual health matters

2. Background to DHIVERSE and the 'SLIP Programme'

Established in 1986, Dhiverse is a well established and well respected sexual health charity.

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 and consensual and pleasurable sexual activity.

We believe that for this to happen all young people should have access to high quality, relevant and age appropriate relationships and sex education (RSE) as soon as possible. RSE should be available through a range of methods to reflect that not all young people are able to 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. All of our RSE work takes into account the Department for Education (DfE) Guidance (2014) 'Preparing Children for Life in Modern Britain' and the new DfE RSE Curriculum guidance (2020).

At Dhiverse, in addition to our mainstream RSE provision, 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. It is a non-judgemental, educational and informative RSE programme, funded mainly by 'BBC Children In Need' and a small grant from the 'National Lottery Community Fund'.

3. How can SLIP help my child?

SLIP can help your child to protect themselves and others by helping them to gain a better understanding of the law in respect of sex and relationships, what a 'healthy' relationship and safe and consensual sex look like in modern day Britain, and how to take care of their sexual health and wellbeing.

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's an approach that 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 and attitudes. 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 in sex for the first time (Kirby 2007). The fact that the Department for Education has made it compulsory for schools to provide RSE from Summer 2021, 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.

4. What topics are covered by the SLIP Programme?

- Session 1: Introductory session
- Session 2: Body Image
- Session 3: Am I normal? (this session looks at anatomy and puberty)
- Session 4: Consent
- Session 5: Abuse and Exploitation
- Session 6: Online Safety and Exploitation
- Session 7: Pornography and Sexting

5. 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!

6. How long is the programme?

The SLIP Programme is made up of 7 modules, as described in section 4. Ideally, young people attend one module per week but there is some flexibility, and we can add one of two more sessions if the young person would benefit from extra time on any module or from going at a slower pace.

The programme is open to both groups and to individuals.

We can deliver the programme in schools and other provisions. If it isn't appropriate to work with an individual during school hours we can arrange sessions for after school.

7. Useful websites and Apps for parents:

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

8. Is there a charge?

The programme is available free of charge to anyone living within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. There is a charge outside of Cambridgeshire. Please visit our website for information on charges and to find out more about our other services.

For more information please contact:

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