

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

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1. Principles

- 1.1 Our Funding Agreement instructs our Trust to *“have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State on sex and relationship education to ensure that children at each Academy are protected from inappropriate teaching material and that they learn the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and for bringing up children”* (para.33). This policy takes account of that current guidance on relationships and Sex Education.
- 1.2 Relationship and sex education is for all children and young people in our Academies and is about the understanding of the importance of stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care.
- 1.3 In our primary schools it is also about the teaching of biological aspects of human growth and reproduction through the science curriculum.
- 1.4 In our secondary schools it is part of our PSHE curriculum and is set with in the context of self-esteem and responsibility for the consequences of an individual’s actions. It will also cover, sexuality and sexual health, however, it is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity.
- 1.5 Social, moral, cultural and spiritual education in our schools promotes individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance.

2. Aim

- 2.1 Future Academies aim to enable students to develop a personal moral code which will enable them to make informed choices as they emerge into adulthood.
- We aim to increase their understanding about the social, emotional physical and moral aspects of human relationships.
 - We aim to develop attitudes of tolerance towards the religious, cultural and moral values of others in relation to family organisation and sex-related issues.
 - We aim to complement the parental role in educating students on sexual matters.

- We aim to ensure students are confident regarding their growing maturity and personal health.
- We aim to foster in students a sense of individual responsibility towards themselves, their community and society.

2.2 We are committed to ensuring that the education provided to pupils in Relationships and Sex Education is appropriate to the age of pupils and their religious background, whilst still being consistent with requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

2.3 Effective RSE is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed choices. Research demonstrates that good, comprehensive sex and relationship education does not make young people more likely to become sexually active at a younger age.

3. RSE Delivery

3.1 We have a graduated, age-appropriate programme of RSE and where possible take account of the developmental differences of children and allow for discussion on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. The elements of the teaching can be split into attitudes and values; personal and social skills and; knowledge and understanding.

3.2 In the Primary phase we will cover

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

3.3 In the Secondary phase we will cover

- Families
- Respectful relationships including friendships
- Online and media
- Being Safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships including sexual health

4. Right to Withdraw

- 4.1 We do respect the parents' right to withdraw their child from sex education within RSE (other than the elements which are taught as part of the statutory Science Curriculum). We acknowledge that parents should have the right to teach sex education themselves in a way which is consistent with their values; however, we reserve the right to request to meet with parents, where withdrawal has been requested and on a case-by-case basis, to assess the best way forward in the best interests of the pupil.
- 4.2 We will share with parents the materials to be used and, where it may be useful, share the experience of other parents. We also acknowledge that the pupil has a right to have their voice heard in this process and will encourage dialogue between pupils, parents and the Academy. We do not permit withdrawal from relationships education either in primary or secondary schools.
- 4.3 Should a moral or ethical discussion take place within a subject outside of the planned PSHE curriculum, as long as it is within the context of the subject and our policy, it will not be deemed part of the Relationship and Sex Education programme and therefore not subject to the parent/carers right of withdrawal.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 The governing board

- 5.1.1 The Trust Board will approve the SRE policy and delegates the implementation of the policy to the Headteacher.
- 5.1.2 The Local Governing Board will hold the Headteacher to account and monitor the implementation of this policy.

5.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-science components of SRE (see section 4).

5.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-science components of RSE
- Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching SRE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

5.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in SRE and, when discussing issues related to SRE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

6. Staff Training

5.1 We will ensure that staff are sufficiently trained to both deliver the teaching and respond to concerns or questions, that either pupils or parents have. They will not, however, offer any specific advice on personal matters to students but would signpost students to the appropriate service. Where appropriate we may use the support of carefully selected outside agencies to broaden the knowledge of students and staff.

5.2 Staff cannot promise confidentiality to students. They are not legally obliged to inform anyone if they learn of or suspect sexual activity in pupils under the age of consent (currently 16) if there is no evidence of abuse or exploitation. However, staff will address any disclosures made by pupils or others through our Safeguarding procedures outlined in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. If a staff member learns that a pupil under the age of consent is sexually active they will encourage the young person to talk with a parent or carer, ensure that any safeguarding or child protection issue is addressed, and provide signposting to confidential sexual health advice and treatment services. Any decision about informing parents will be made in consultation with the Head Teacher who will take advice if necessary.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

6.1 Relationship and sex education will be monitored by the PSHE co-ordinator or other nominated member of the staff. Students and staff will be involved in evaluating the programme of work. Where improvements are identified these will be made so that the aims of this policy are consistently met.

6.2 Reports will be made to the Governors who will monitor and evaluate the quality of RSE education through engagement with pupils, parents and staff, as well as observing statistical data where relevant.

8. Complaints

7.1 Complaints regarding this policy should be made informally in the first instance and in accordance with the Trust's Complaints Policy.

9. Trust / School policies to be read in conjunction with this policy

Behaviour Principles and Policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Equality Statement

Complaints Policy

10. Other documents / websites which you may wish to refer to

[Sex and Relationship Education Guidance DfE 2000](#)

[Sex and Relationships Education on the Family Planning Association website](#) which also has advice for parents on how to talk to your children about these issues.

<https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/system/files/SRE%20for%20the%2021st%20Century%20-%20FINAL.pdf.pdf> supplementary advice to the sex and relationship Education Guidance – PSHE Association

[Children and Social Work Act Part 1 Chapter 4](#) – relationships, sex and PSHE education.



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