



Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Sex and Relationship Education

1 Statement of Policy

- 1.1 The Academy respects each student as a unique being, accepted in an ethos that encourages and celebrates diversity.
- 1.2 It is Academy policy to provide opportunities for all students to develop holistically, personally and academically, based on values and teaching. Learning will be based on encouraging both respect for the human body and ensuring health and well-being.
- 1.3 Whatever their own experience of family relationships, students need to glimpse something of the wonder, love, commitment and security which are possible in family life and how these can be experienced in a variety of family compositions including opposite or same sex parents or single parent families. They need to be presented with ideals to which they might aspire. The reality, however of individual students' own experiences also needs to be accepted so as to affirm and value all of them and to help them to cope with their own experiences.
- 1.4 The Academy Sex & Relationship programme is well planned, offering a high quality experience of health, sex and relationship education, thus supporting young people in the choices they may be faced with, preparing them for adult life.

2 Other Policies

- 2.1 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Safer recruitment and selection process
- Equal Opportunities for students
- SEN Policy
- Whistleblowing
- Single Equalities Scheme Policy

- 2.2 Aims

The Academy will aim to deliver a programme of study which ensures all students have the opportunity to;

- Develop values and attitudes based on the vision and ethos of the Academy, such as the importance of marriage, the family and stable relationships be these formed between same sex or opposite sex partners
- Build self-esteem, self-awareness and a sense of moral responsibility

- Develop respect and consideration for others regardless of gender, sexuality, transgender status, race or disability
- Have their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical developments promoted and understood
- Prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- Study within an ethos which will strive to complement and be supportive to the role of parents/carers and have regard to parents'/carers' views about its content and presentation
- Develop their understanding of and encourage health-promoting behaviour

3 Academy Programme

3.1 The Academy has an on-going programme of sex and relationship education throughout Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Post-16. This programme is regularly updated and reviewed.

The programme will be delivered through National Curriculum Science lessons and through the Academy PSHE programme.

The topics covered in each key stage are:

Key Stage 3 - Year 7 topics

- Relationships in general as an introduction to sex education and recognising the importance of personal choice in managing relationships so that they do not present risks
- Recognising that families can be made up in different ways including opposite sex, same-sex and/or single parents/carers but hold the same value and offer the same positive role-models, love, care, guidance and support as each other
- Self-worth and image
- A visiting speaker to discuss health and personal hygiene; and biological reproduction in humans, development of a baby in the womb, as required by the Science National Curriculum

Key Stage 3 - Year 8 topics

- Understand the concept of stereotyping and identifying its various forms; and Health and the human body in Science

Key Stage 4 -Year 9 topics

- Laws about sex and moral attitudes to sex and the different sexualities and awareness of the range of sexual attitudes and behaviours in present day society
- Decision making
- HIV, AIDS and sexually transmitted infections

Key Stage 4 - Year 10 topics

- Family planning and contraception - the advantages and disadvantages
- General health care and sexually transmitted infections
- HIV and AIDS
- Science and the National Curriculum covers aspects of hormonal control, including aspects of sex hormones and the medical use of hormones

Post -16

- At Post-16 the work done in the earlier key stages is reinforced and expanded upon, preparing students for the adult world. It extends the topics touched on earlier into real life situations. The Year 12 students will be involved in assemblies and preparing material for use in lower years
- Information through other National Curriculum subjects and Religious Education
- Parents/carers must be aware that, through other National Curriculum subjects such as English, Drama, History and Beliefs and Values controversial issues may come up and therefore require a certain amount of discussion
- In Beliefs and Values, for example, topics such as Belonging, Rules and Responsibilities and Rites of Passage might be covered at Key Stage 3. At Key stage 4; Abortion, Medical Ethics, Marriage/Civil Partnerships and the Family will be covered as part of an unbiased curriculum which is fully inclusive and mindful of the need to promote positive relationships between individuals holding a protected characteristic and no protected characteristic
- Within this category, as long as any discussion takes place within the context of the subject, it will not be deemed to be part of the sex and relationship education programme and therefore not subject to parental right of withdrawal. However, the Academy holds the belief and expectation that staff will deal both sensitively and professionally with any issues which arise in the classroom.
- Other connected issues which may be discussed in non-specific sex and relationship education lessons

3.2 The Academy understands and wishes to highlight to parents/carers that topics and discussions related to sex and relationship education may occur in other lessons as part of other studies and subject areas. These may include:

- Birth, contraception, child-rearing, abortion and technological developments which involve consideration of attitudes, beliefs, values and morality
- Awareness of the availability of statutory and voluntary organisations which offer support in human relationships, such as Relate

- Awareness that feeling positive about sexuality and sexual activity is important in relationships and understanding the changing nature of sexuality over time and its impact upon lifestyles, such as the menopause
- Awareness of partnerships, marriage and divorce and the impact of loss, separation and bereavement
- Discussion of issues such as sexual harassment in terms of their effect on individuals

3.3 **The Parental Right of Withdrawal**

Parents/carers now have the right to withdraw their children from sex and relationship education, although not from those elements which are in National Curriculum Science.

If a parent/carer wishes to withdraw a child from these classes, they are asked to discuss it with the Principal to be clear about what the student will do when withdrawn.

It should be made clear, however, that if students who are withdrawn from sex and relationship education ask questions at other times, these questions will be answered honestly by staff.

3.4 **Use of outside visitors**

The Academy will; involve Health professionals from the School Nursing service to complement its programme of sex and relationship education; will complement and enhance the Key Stage 3 and 4 programmes of study; every visitor or professional speaker involved in this programme will be made aware of the sex and relationship education policy of this Academy; will exercise great care in the choice of external speakers to ensure that the aims of the policy and vision of the Academy are supported by them.