

1. Introduction

This policy has been developed in line with Government publications:

- Sex and Relationship Education Guidance July 2000
- Sex and Relationships Education in Schools (England), Briefing Paper December 2016

2. The aims of Sex and Relationship Education

The aims of Sex and Relationship Education are:

- to develop knowledge and understanding about growth, development and human reproduction;
- to foster self-esteem, self awareness and a sense of moral responsibility
- to develop the skills to avoid and resist unwanted sexual experience
- to encourage exploration of values and attitudes
- to consider sexuality and personal relationships
- to develop communication and decision-making skills

The Framework for PHSE

This area of the curriculum for Key Stage 3 is organised using the principles of The Framework for PHSE launched in September 1999. These are:

- Effective Sex and Relationship Education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives
- The objective of Sex and Relationship Education is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development
- Sex and Relationship Education plays an important role, alongside other aspects of the curriculum and Academy life, in helping students deal with difficult moral and social questions
- As part of Sex and Relationship Education, students should be taught about the nature and importance of marriage for family life and bringing up children
- Secondary students should learn to understand human sexuality, learn the reasons for delaying sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such delay, and learn about obtaining appropriate advice on sexual health
- Sex and Relationship Education does not encourage early sexual experimentation. It should teach young people to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others

What is Sex and Relationship Education

It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity.

It has three main elements:

- attitudes and values;
 - learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations;
 - learning the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children;
 - learning the value of respect, love and care;
 - exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas; and
 - developing critical thinking as part of decision-making.
- personal and social skills;
 - learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
 - developing self-respect and empathy for others;
 - learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice;
 - developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
 - managing conflict; and
 - learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.
- knowledge and understanding;
 - learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
 - understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
 - learning about the range of local and national sexual health advice and support services;
 - learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such delay; and
 - the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

Organisation and Content of the Sex Education Programme

Sex and Relationship Education is delivered to students across all Key Stages in the Academy through a variety of PHSE and RE lessons, tutorial programmes, assemblies, drop down days and the Science curriculum.

As Science contributes significantly to the programme this is reproduced in outline below.

National Curriculum Science

Key Stage 3

- that fertilisation in humans is the fusion of a male and a female cell;

- about the physical and emotional changes that take place during adolescence;
- about the human reproduction system, including the menstrual cycle and fertilisation;
- how the foetus develops in the uterus;
- how the growth and reproduction of bacteria and the replication of viruses can affect health.

Key Stage 4

- the way in which hormonal control occurs, including the effects of sex hormones;
- some medical uses of hormones, including the control and promotion of fertility;
- the defence mechanisms of the body;
- how sex is determined in humans.

Teaching Methods and Staffing

SRE is taught by a team of Teachers from different subject areas. They are supported through additional and specialist delivery of themes by outside agencies and speakers, the Pastoral Manager, Form Tutors and members of the leadership team.

The approach used is left to the individual teacher concerned, though there are guidelines for this as well as for lesson content, supporting materials and visual aids to be used with students. These will be used in conjunction with this Policy document.

To review the effectiveness of the programme, review meetings will be held. Within the classroom, individual teachers assess the comprehension of the issues covered through questioning and discussing topics with the students as well as through written work.

The resources are selected by the Humanities Team Leader in conjunction with the teaching staff and subject leaders responsible for the delivery of the programme.

A selection of suitable resources is available for teaching staff to use for reference purposes and to be used with teaching groups.

Outside speakers are invited where appropriate.

Staff Development

Any member of staff can request appropriate Continuing Professional Development for the development of this knowledge of Sex and Relationship Education and its delivery.

Specific Issues

Confidentiality: Any information of a confidential nature given by a student to a member of staff is passed on to the designated member of staff for Child Protection.

Child Protection Procedure: Members of staff are NOT permitted to initiate conversations with individual students about sexual or any other type of abuse. If approached, staff can only listen and then pass the information on to the designated member of staff for Child Protection.

Child Withdrawal Procedures: If a Parent requests their child is withdrawn from Sex and Relationship Education lessons, the Humanities Team Leader will make alternative arrangements. Any Parents with concerns about the content of the programme can be sent full details. Parents may not withdraw their child from the National Curriculum for Science that covers reproduction.

Any Parent wishing to discuss Sex and Relationship Education is able to do so with the Humanities Team Leader or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Equal Opportunities

The teaching programme is offered to all students.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Policy

Individual Teachers will evaluate the effectiveness of the programme from monitoring the discussions and work that takes place in their lessons and how these develop as the students gain knowledge in the subject.

Review meetings are held to discuss the current syllabus and any alterations or adaptations that might be necessary.