



# **Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Policy**

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## **1. Introduction**

The overall aim of sex and relationships education is to enable our students to develop into confident adults, who have the ability to accept their own and others' sexuality, to express their sexuality in positive ways and to enjoy relationships based on mutual respect and responsibility free from any abuse. SRE is a vital part of our commitment to ensuring that our safeguarding obligations are met.

Sex and relationships education should be a partnership between student, parents, the Academy and other agencies to ensure sensitive support for young people as they grow and mature and are enabled to embrace the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children for all or part of the sex and relationships education programme. However, it is hoped that as a result of proper consultation and discussion with interested parties, parents will see the merits and necessity of the sex and relationships education programme we are implementing. Some aspects of the programme will be delivered in single gender groups.

## **2. Implementation**

- Facts will be presented in an objective and balanced manner using both the commonly used and biological terms (to allow young people to learn appropriate vocabulary and facts and to develop confidence in discussing sexuality and personal relationships). Sensitive issues such as sexually transmitted infections, abortion, contraception and homosexuality will not be avoided and questions will be met with balanced and factual information.
- The Academy will provide an atmosphere in which discussion can take place about a range of sexuality and personal relationship issues which will allow the students to explore their own feelings, values and attitudes and to listen to the views of others. This will enable them to make informed decisions about their own sexual health and lifestyle.
- Our programme of sex and relationship education places an emphasis on loving and caring relationships, respect for family life and oneself and which seeks to enable students to value the cultural and religious influences in our society. Students will

be guided towards developing a moral code which encompasses both rights and responsibilities.

- Staff do not give an individual student advice on contraception and related matters. Any concerns staff have about individual students are referred to the Academy's designated child protection co-ordinator.

### **3. Roles and responsibilities**

- Responsibility for planning, monitoring and reviewing the sex and relationships education course lies with Co-ordinator for Personal, Social and Health Education who then works with those who deliver the PSHE and citizenship programme. Components of sex and relationships education are also taught in science, RE and Health and Social Care lessons.
- Appropriate use of outside agencies is made in the delivery of some health education issues. Pastoral teams provide support for individuals who are worried by aspects of their development or relationships.
- The social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL) programme also plays a role in developing student's capacity to make informed decisions. This is covered within PSHE programme, delivered to all year groups.
- The school nurse is available upon request for any students who wish to see her. Students are encouraged to discuss concerns with their advisor, Head of Year, Assistant Head of Year or any member of staff. The Principal who is also the designated Child Protection Co-ordinator gives guidance on procedure regarding sensitive issues.

### **4. Monitoring and evaluation**

The programme for Sex and Relationships Education is monitored by the Assistant Vice Principal responsible for Personal, Social and Health Education who reports regularly on implementation to the Principal. It is also reviewed regularly at meetings by those that deliver the programme.