



# Sex and Relationships Policy

Updated September 2011



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# Sex and Relationship Policy

## Rationale

Effective sex and relationship education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives. It should be firmly rooted within the framework for CPSE and the relevant National Curriculum Science subjects. Materials used in Academy are in accordance with this framework and the law.

The objective of sex and relationship education is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development.

A successful programme, firmly embedded in CPSE helps young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.

The Academy works effectively in partnership with parents and others in the wider community, consulting them on the content of the sex and relationship education programme.

The new PSHE framework helps students to develop the skills and understanding they need to live confident, healthy and independent lives. Alongside other aspects of the curriculum and school life, it plays an important role to help students deal with difficult moral and social questions.

As part of sex and relationship education, students are taught about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and bringing up children. Students learn the significance of marriage and stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society.

Students are given accurate information for the purpose of enabling them to understand difference and of preventing or removing prejudice and to respect themselves and others.

Students 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 contributes to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at the Academy and of society and preparing students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Sex and relationship education teaches young people to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others. It enables young people to mature, to build up their confidence and self esteem and understand the reason for delaying sexual activity.

## Principles

Sex and relationship education is for all young people at Academy. It is centred on the 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 is linked with issues of peer pressure and other risk-taking behaviour such as drugs, smoking and alcohol.

It has three main elements:

- Attitudes and values
- Personal and social skills
- Knowledge and understanding

Effective sex and relationship education is best achieved through a whole school approach. This includes:-

- Involving parents and carers
- Giving staff appropriate training and support
- Ensuring that students' views are listened to

### **Attitudes and Values**

- Learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices
- learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships, and marriage
- learning about the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour

### **Ethnicity**

The Academy recognises that for some students it is not culturally appropriate to address particular issues in a mixed group.

### **Special Educational Needs**

The Academy recognises that it has a duty of care, to ensure that students with special educational needs and learning difficulties are properly included in sex and relationship education.

### **Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation**

Teachers deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. There is no direct promotion of sexual orientation.

### **Specific Issues when teaching Sex and Relationship Education**

The personal beliefs and attitudes of teachers do not influence the teaching of sex and relationship education within the CPSE framework. Teachers work within the agreed values framework.

A sexual relationship between a teacher and any student at the Academy is a breach of trust. Such behaviour constitutes serious misconduct on the part of the teacher and will invariably result in disciplinary action.

### **Parents' Right to Withdraw**

Parents have a right to request that their children may be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education at the Academy, apart from subjects taught within the National Science Curriculum. The Academy will offer a standard pack issued by the DfE of information to parents who withdraw their children from sex education.

### **Confidentiality**

Teachers cannot offer or guarantee students unconditional confidentiality, though teachers are not legally bound to inform parents of any disclosure unless the Principal has specifically requested them to do so.

There may be cases where a teacher learns from any student under 16 years old that they are having, or contemplating having, sexual intercourse. In these circumstances, the Academy will take steps to ensure that:

- Wherever possible, the young person is persuaded to talk to their parent or carer
- Any child protection issues are addressed and
- That the child has been adequately counselled and informed about contraception and advice services
- Where a crime has been committed the Principal will be informed and appropriate action will be taken.

### **Monitoring and Evaluating the Sex and Relationship Policy**

The Academy will monitor the implementation of the policy through:-

- The framework for the delivery of the programme on sex and relationships in PSHE and Science
- Classroom observation and feedback
- Identification and delivery of training needs for teachers
- Collation of data on teenage pregnancies
- Child Protection issues arising