



Sex and Relationship Policy

(ratified by the Full Governing Body on 19th December 2017)

Review Cycle: 2 Years – Autumn Term

Review By: Leadership Team, Behaviour & Attendance Sub-
Committee

Contents:

Introduction, aims, definition, guidelines for governors and staff, delivery of SRE, content of sex education, roles and responsibilities, advice to individual pupils, visitors and outside agencies, monitoring and review

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

Introduction

The most up to date legislation regarding sex and relationships education (SRE) are contained in the Education Act (1996), the Children, Schools & Families Act (2010) and also in the Sex & Relationships Guidance (2000).

Academies do not have to follow the National Curriculum and as such, are not obliged to teach SRE.

If academies do teach SRE, they are required by their funding agreements to have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

The academy is required to have a broad and balanced curriculum and must have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State to ensure that children are protected from inappropriate teaching materials and they learn the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and for bringing up children.

At Alcester Academy we teach SRE as set out in this policy.

Aims

The Academy aims to:-

- a) encourage pupils to have a regard for moral considerations, the value of family life, the responsibilities of parenthood and to recognise religious and cultural differences.
- b) encourage pupils to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity and respect for themselves and others.
- c) present facts in a balanced and objective way so that pupils understand that there are different sexual attitudes and behaviour.
- d) encourage pupils to consider their own attitudes and to make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions, both in school and in later adult life.
- e) foster a recognition that both sexes should behave responsibly in sexual matters.
- f) make pupils aware of what is and is not legal.

In addition to the above the aims of sex and relationship education (SRE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

Definition

SRE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

SRE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

SRE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

Guidelines for governors and staff

The Governors are responsible for:-

- (i) deciding the Academy's overall approach to sex education,
- (ii) the two year review of the sex education policy.

The staff are responsible for:-

- i) presenting the facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner, set within the framework of values and an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour.
- ii) encouraging pupils to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications and risks of certain types of behaviour and to accept that both sexes must behave reasonably in sexual matters.
- iii) encouraging pupils to appreciate the values of family life.

Delivery of SRE

SRE will be delivered through a variety of Super Learning Days during years 7 – 11 and sessions delivered by specialist organisations.

Biological aspects of SRE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education, also within philosophy and ethics lessons.

Pupils may also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional as required.

Across all Key Stages, pupils will be supported with developing the following skills:

- Communication, including how to manage changing relationships and emotions
- Recognising and assessing potential risks
- Assertiveness
- Seeking help and support when required
- Informed decision-making
- Self-respect and empathy for others
- Recognising and maximising a healthy lifestyle
- Managing conflict
- Discussion and group work

These skills are taught within the context of family life.

Content of sex education

Aspects of SRE that will be covered include conception, childbirth, Sexually Transmitted Infections including HIV and AIDS and sexuality. Other aspects of safeguarding will also form part of topics covered such as Child Sexual Exploitation, consent and grooming. Copies of the Science and R.E. Schemes of Work are available to parents on request from the Subject leader.

Roles and responsibilities

The governing Body

The governing board will approve the SRE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that SRE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from [non-statutory/non-science] components of SRE.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering SRE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to SRE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the [non-statutory/non-science] components of SRE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching SRE. Staff who have concerns about teaching SRE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

Pupils

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

Parents' right to withdraw

Parents' have the right to withdraw their children from the [non-statutory/non-science] components of SRE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the Assistant Head teacher who oversees this area. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Assistant headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from SRE.

Advice to individual pupils

Teachers and other professionals will exercise their discretion and judgement when dealing with particularly explicit issues raised by an individual pupil.

Teachers are advised to encourage a pupil asking for specific advice on family planning or other aspects of sexual behaviour, to seek advice from their parents, and if appropriate from the relevant health service professionals.

Where the teacher believes that a pupil has embarked upon, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which is likely to place them at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, the teacher has a general responsibility to ensure that the pupil is aware of the implications and the pupil is urged to inform their parents and/or seek professional advice. The member of staff cannot promise confidentiality to the pupil and where there is a risk that a teacher might be compromised when speaking to individual pupils, they are advised that it would be wiser to be accompanied by another member of staff. In all cases, members of staff should inform the academy's designated senior leader for Child Protection, who may **take further action in line with the Child Protection Policy.**

Guidance in cases of suspected child abuse is clearly defined in the Academy's Child Protection Policy.

Visitors and outside agencies

All visitors and outside agencies involved in the provision of sex education will be accompanied at all times by Academy staff. They will work within the aims and guidelines contained within the sex and relationships policy and contribute to the Academy's overall mission statement.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Governors' Curriculum Standing Committee. Each year this policy will be discussed and re-adopted at a full Governors' meeting.

Signed: _____ Chair of Governors
Mr M Dean

Signed: _____ Headteacher
Mr P Hyde

Date: _____