



Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Responsible:	Director of Life Education
Review Body:	Board of Trustees
Date:	January 2018
Review:	January 2019

1. Aims

At Rye College and Studio School, Sex and Relationship Education is regarded as education, about sexual matters within a values framework, focusing on responsibility within caring, committed relationships. The programme will be taught objectively and does not intend to promote any form of sexual orientation, but the Academy will fully respect the legal right of parents to withdraw their child from aspects of the National Curriculum Orders for Science.

The sex education and relationship programme is an opportunity for students to:

- Develop an understanding of sex, sexuality, and relationships;
- Develop a range of appropriate personal skills;
- Access a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.

The aims will be achieved through the following objectives:

- Developing an understanding of a range of values and moral issues including the importance of family life;
- Developing an understanding of the biological facts related to human growth and development, including reproduction;
- Developing an understanding of the importance of healthy relationships.

This policy works with our values in terms of:

- Valuing and respecting ourselves and others;
- Respecting healthy personal relationships, including between friends, families and others;
- Understanding difference and preventing prejudice and recognising the importance of pursuing a healthy lifestyle and keeping ourselves and others safe.

Sex and Relationship education is firmly rooted in our school's Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education programme (Life Education).

2. Objectives

Effective Sex and Relationship Education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives. Therefore our objectives are:

- To provide factual information and the development of an understanding of it;
- To develop a range of appropriate personal and social skills;
- To clarify attitudes and values.

3. Statutory Guidance

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 statutory guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996. (Statutory guidance: "Sex and Relationship Education" Department for Education (DfE) 2000).

At Rye College and Studio School we teach Sex and Relationship Education as set out in this policy in line with the National Curriculum.

4. Definition

Sex and Relationship Education is about the emotional, social and cultural development of students, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

Sex and Relationship Education involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values.

Sex and Relationship Education is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. How we will provide a Sex and Relationship Education Programme and delivery

At Rye College and Studio School, the Sex and Relationship Education programme will be developed in conjunction with the views of teachers, students and families by the Director of Life Education, in accordance with DfE recommendations.

The majority of the programme will be delivered through the PSHE framework, with aspects taught via the science curriculum.

We aim to create a climate in which young people are able to explore the emotional and factual aspects of Sex and Relationship Education. We respect the varied beliefs and values held by our school community, however personal beliefs and attitudes will not influence the teaching of Sex and Relationship Education, and a balanced view will always be presented.

The specific aims of sex education should match the age and maturity of the young people involved but underpinning all of them will be an understanding of biological, emotional, social, legal and moral aspects of sex and sexuality.

Key Stage 3

Students will learn about puberty – physical and emotional body changes, managing the changes, exploring why people might want a baby, body image, HIV and AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, contraception, consequences of unhealthy choices, where to access help and support.

Key Stage 4

Students will learn social and emotional aspects of relationships including qualities of a good relationship and pressure, domestic violence, assertive behaviour, stereotyping, the law with regards to sexual behaviours, risk taking and consequences, contraception and where to access help and support.

External experts may be invited to assist from time to time with the delivery of the Sex and Relationship Education programme but will be expected to comply with the provisions of this policy.

Throughout every year group, appropriate diagrams, videos, books, games, discussion and practical activities will be used to assist learning.

Inappropriate images, videos, etc. will not be used, and resources will be selected with sensitivity given to the age and cultural background of students.

Students will be prevented from accessing inappropriate materials on the internet when using such to assist with their learning. The prevention measures taken to ensure this are outlined in the Academy's Online (E-safety) Policy, and Acceptable Use Agreement.

Teachers will ensure that students' views are listened to and will encourage them to ask questions and engage in discussion. Teachers will answer questions sensitively and honestly.

6. Confidentiality

Confidentiality cannot be given within the classroom and students are made aware of this throughout the lessons however colleagues will signpost to services that can offer this to young people.

Colleagues should, however, alert the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) about any suspicions of inappropriate behaviour or potential abuse as per the Academy's Safeguarding & Child Protection policy and procedures.

7. Students Requiring Additional Support

All schools have a duty to ensure that students with special educational needs are properly and appropriately included in Sex and Relationship Education.

Where some students with special educational needs may be more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation than their peers, and others may be confused about what is acceptable public behaviour, then we will look to providing additional support in order to help develop their skills and reduce the risks of them being exploited, and to learn what sorts of behaviour are, and are not, acceptable.

8. The Role of Parents and Families

At Rye College and Studio School we seek to work in partnership with parents and families and recognise that they have an important role in helping their children understand Sex and Relationship Education. Where there are concerns we are happy to discuss them and make reasonable adjustments to lessons. For example, for some students it is not culturally appropriate to address particular issues in a mixed class; by talking with parents and families we hope to establish what is appropriate and acceptable for their children. Our policy on Sex and Relationship Education will be communicated to parents and families via our website.

9. The Right to Withdraw Students from Lessons

Parents and Families have the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the school's programme of Sex and Relationship Education.

Parents and families who wish to withdraw their children from part of the Personal, Social and Health Education programme (Life Education) pertaining to sex education should make a written request to the headteacher who will arrange to meet with them so that any misunderstandings about the nature of sex education provided by the Academy can be discussed.

10. Training

Colleagues are trained on the delivery of Sex and Relationship Education as part of their induction and it is included in our Continuing Professional Learning calendar.

The headteacher will also invite outside visitors, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to colleagues teaching Sex and Relationship Education.

11. Equal opportunities

Rye Academy Trust abides by all equality legislation and fully respects the rights of all students and colleagues, regardless of any protected characteristic that they may have.

We will therefore endeavour to approach the Sex and Relationship Education programme with sensitivity and respect, avoiding any derogatory or prejudicial terms which could cause offense.

12. Monitoring and review

The Sex and Relationship Education programme will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis by the Director of Life Education.