



Name	Relationships & Sex Education Policy
Approved by	Community Committee
Policy Created	June 2014
Review	3 years
Update Approved	September 2018
All policies are available to stakeholders either on the Academy website or upon request from the Academy's Main office.	

1. Principles

1.1	The Co-op Academy North Manchester believes that Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) makes an essential contribution to every pupil's health, wellbeing and preparation for life in society.
1.2	Effective relationships and sex education is essential if young people can make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives. A comprehensive programme of RSE provides accurate information on the body, reproduction, sex, sexual health, sexuality and consent. It also gives young people essential skills to build positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relations and staying safe both on and offline. It is an integral part of the PSHE and SMSC Curriculum. Relationships and sex education are compulsory and is a statutory subject.

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1	To endorse the entitlement of all the academy to sex and relationship education.
2.2	To encourage the capacity to make decisions in managing relationships so that choices are informed, responsible and appropriate and minimise any risks to the individual.
2.3	To discuss, openly, moral values and explore those held by different cultures and groups.
2.4	To encourage honesty and respect in all relationships and nurture sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others.
2.5	To prepare pupils adequately for adult life: its decisions, responsibilities, experiences and opportunities and to teach the taking on of responsibility and the consequences of one's actions in relation to sexual activity and parenthood.
2.6	To help equip pupils to develop fully as emotionally mature human beings.
2.7	To present the biological facts about sex, reproduction, contraception and sexually transmitted diseases in an objective and balanced manner.
2.8	To help pupils distinguish between fact and opinion in relation to relationship issues
2.9	To equip pupils with an understanding of the law surrounding relationships and sex and to have a knowledge of their rights regarding relationships and sex.
2.10	To promote understanding of the emotional and physical changes related to puberty and develop and raise self-esteem.
2.11	To understand the laws around sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, harassment and domestic abuse.
2.12	To investigate strategies to enable pupils to become accountable for their own behaviour.
2.13	To understand what consent means, how to both give it and recognise it in others.

2.14	To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of family planning; the need for preventative healthcare and the availability of support for relationships from organisations such as Relate.
2.15	To teach about relationships, love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood as well as sex.
2.16	To ensure that appropriate guidance and support is given to any staff delivery RSE in school and that effective links with external agencies are established and maintained.
2.17	To focus on both genders equally.
2.18	To link sex and relationship education with issues of peer pressure and other risk-taking behaviour, such as drugs, smoking and alcohol.
2.19	To specify the right of parents/carers to withdraw their child from all or part of RSE education.
2.20	To encourage honesty and respect in all relationships and nurture sensitivity and consideration of others' feelings.
2.21	To develop an understanding of the legal issues surround sex and sexuality and avoid being exploited or exploiting others, or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex. (This includes discussing child sexual exploitation and consent)

3. What is Relationships and Sex Education?

3.1	RSE is part of lifelong learning about sex, sexuality, emotions, relationships and sexual health. It contributes to the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students and prepares them for the experiences, rights and responsibilities of adult life.
------------	---

4. Organisation and Implementation

4.1	Relationships and sex education is not an isolated subject. It permeates the whole school curriculum, the ethos of the school, and the pastoral system. Many subjects, but particularly science, religious studies and PSHE explore some elements of sex and relationship education.
4.2	Much of the relationships and sex education takes place within PSHE lessons, assemblies or in drop-down sessions. PSHE and citizenship are taught by a team of specialist teachers, led by the Head of Citizenship and PSHE, with support from professionals where appropriate.
4.3	RSE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included. Education on sensitive and specialist topics such as child exploitation, consent and female genital mutilation are all covered, but are taught by a subject specialist, often from an outside organisation (such as Brooke) who are qualified to answer questions posed by the pupils.
4.4	Pupil explore RSE in a way that it relevant and sensitive to all sexualities and irrespective of gender.
4.5	The science curriculum is delivered by the science department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction.
4.6	The religious studies curriculum is delivered by religious studies teachers. These lessons focus on the social aspect of RSE including, for example, the role and function of marriage within different religious groups. Matters such as child-rearing and sexuality are considered as well.
4.7	Any RSE lesson may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson.
4.8	When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground

	rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.
4.9	During years 7 to 9 students will receive relationship and sex education through the PSHE curriculum, in particular exploring:
4.10	Relationships: friends and families, marriage, and civil partnerships, positive and negative ways of attracting attention.
4.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health services • Sexual relationships: law, consent, contraception • Female genital mutilation • Child sexual exploitation • Human Trafficking and anti-slavery • Sex, gender, sexuality and sexual orientation • E-safety in relation to relationships. • Abuse in relationships • Social media and its impact on relationships
4.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During years 10 and 11 students build upon the knowledge and concepts learnt in years 7 to 9. However, these are explored in a deeper manner, considering not only the personal impact of the issues concerned but also the impact of wider societal responses to relationships and sex. For example, exploring in greater depth the impact social media has had upon the expectations within relationships. This encompasses a range of aspects relating to RSE. In Years 10 and 11 RSE is delivered through discrete lessons once a fortnight. Forming one of the modules covered in Year 10 and one in Year 11. Other topics covered during years 10 and 11 include: Parenting and Contraception • Consent – what can impact upon it, attitudes to attracting attention. • Sexual Health • Exploitation • Pornography – what it is and the law

5. Confidentiality

5.1	Teachers cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality in some matters and students will be made aware of this. The academy is aware that effective relationships and sex education can lead to the disclosure of a child protection/safeguarding issue and this will be acted on in accordance with the school's Safeguarding Policy. Students will be informed of the sources of confidential help available which currently include the school counsellor, pastoral staff, the school nurse and local advice centres.
------------	---

6. Parents' Right of Withdrawal

6.1	Parents/Carers do have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any relationships and sex education provided. Parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their children from the teaching of the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are included in the National Curriculum for science. Should a parent/carer wish to withdraw their child from any part of the relationships and sex education provided, they should put this request in writing to the Vice Principal.
------------	---

7. Monitoring and evaluation

7.1	The Head of Citizenship and PSHE will liaise annually with the other curriculum areas to ensure that the relationships and sex education programme is being covered appropriately and that the biological, social and emotional elements of relationships and sex education are properly co-ordinated.
7.2	The PSHE programme will be evaluated and monitored through the usual school review processes, including lesson observations and student voice.
7.3	The Governing Body and Leadership Team are responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of the Relationships and Sex Education Policy.
7.4	Parents/carers are able to offer views on this policy at parents' forum

Responsibility:

Responsible Staff:	Head of PSHE/Citizenship and Assistant Headteacher
Policy Administrator:	
Approving Body	Community and Standards Committee
This policy is to be viewed in conjunction with other policies.	