



Relationship Sex & Health Education Policy

Acer Academy

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1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSHE) 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
- › We also want all children to grow up healthy, happy and safe.
- › To be able to manage the challenges and opportunities they may face.
- › To develop their independence for the future that may inform their decisions as adults.

2. Statutory requirements

As a secondary academy, we must provide RSHE to all pupils under section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

In teaching RSE, we're required by our funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state, as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

We also have regard to legal duties set out in:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

At Oakwood Academy we teach RSE as set out in this policy and [subject policy for Personal Development](#).

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSHE

5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors.

4. Definition

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

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

RSHE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

Our RSHE curriculum is set out, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, and taking into account the age, developmental stage, needs and feelings of our pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so that pupils are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum section of our website.

6. Delivery of RSHE

- › We deliver RSHE related topics in a way designed to cater to the stage of learning and not the chronological age of the children. Therefore all lessons are planned and delivered to the needs of our learners.
- › The curriculum has been developed with members of the Senior Leadership Team and based from guidance from the PHSE association in the article 'PSHE education planning framework for pupils with SEND (key stages 1-4, July 2020)'
- › We revisit topics for memory recall and to consolidate knowledge addressing any gaps we may come across within pupil knowledge. All lessons are differentiated with the use of up to date resources for pupil engagement and understanding
- › RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

RSHE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- › Families
- › Respectful relationships, including friendships
- › Online and media
- › Being safe
- › Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

For more information about our RSHE curriculum, see our curriculum section of our website.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life, taking care to make sure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can

include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents and foster parents/carers, amongst other structures), along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example, looked-after children or young carers).

We will also be mindful of the law and legal requirements, taking care not to condone or encourage illegal political activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property, hate crime, terrorism or the illegal use of drugs.

6.1 Inclusivity

We will teach about these topics in a manner that:

- › Considers how a diverse range of pupils will relate to them
- › Is sensitive to all pupils' experiences
- › During lessons, makes pupils feel:
 - Safe and supported
 - Able to engage with the key messages
- › We will also:
 - › Make sure that pupils learn about these topics in an environment that's appropriate for them, for example in:
 - A whole-class setting
 - Small groups or targeted sessions
 - 1-to-1 discussions
 - Digital formats
 - › Give careful consideration to the level of differentiation needed

6.2 Use of resources

We **will** consider whether any resources we plan to use:

- Are aligned with the teaching requirements set out in the statutory RSE guidance
- Would support pupils in applying their knowledge in different contexts and settings
- Are age-appropriate, given the age, developmental stage and background of our pupils
- Are evidence-based and contain robust facts and statistics
- Fit into our curriculum plan
- Are from credible sources
- Are compatible with effective teaching approaches
- Are sensitive to pupils' experiences and won't provoke distress

7. Use of external organisations and materials

We will make sure that an agency and any materials used are appropriate and in line with our legal duties around political impartiality.

The school remains responsible for what is said to pupils. This includes making sure that any speakers, tools and resources used don't undermine the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

We **will**:

- › Make appropriate checks and engage with external agencies to make sure that their approach to teaching about RSE is balanced, and it and the resources they intend to use:
 - Are age-appropriate
 - Are in line with pupils' developmental stage
 - Comply with:
 - This policy
 - The [Teachers' Standards](#)
 - The [Equality Act 2010](#)
 - The [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
 - The [Education Act 1996](#)
 - › Only work with external agencies where we have full confidence in the agency, its approach and the resources it uses
 - › Make sure that any speakers and resources meet the intended outcome of the relevant part of the curriculum
 - › Review any case study materials and look for feedback from other people the agency has worked with
 - › Be clear on:
 - What they're going to say
 - Their position on the issues to be discussed
 - › Ask to see in advance any materials that the agency may use
 - › Know the named individuals who will be there, and follow our usual safeguarding procedures for these people
 - › Conduct a basic online search and address anything that may be of concern to us, or to parents and carers
 - › Check the agency's protocol for taking pictures or using any personal data they might get from a session
 - › Remind teachers that they can say "no" or, in extreme cases, stop a session
 - › Make sure that the teacher is in the room during any sessions with external speakers
- We **won't**, under any circumstances:
- › Work with external agencies that take or promote extreme political positions
 - › Use materials produced by such agencies, even if the material itself is not extreme

8. Roles and responsibilities

8.1 The governing board

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

8.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSHE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from [non-statutory/non-science] components of RSE (see section 9).

8.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

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

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

8.4 Pupils

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

9. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the [non-statutory/non-science] components of sex education within RSE **up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16**. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 1 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

Alternative school work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

10. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSHE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

We will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSHE.

11. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSHE is monitored by the curriculum lead through:

Lesson observations, Monitoring and completing book scrutiny, learning walks as well as discussions with individual staff.

Pupils' development in RSHE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Appendix 1: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSHE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	

