



The Athelstan Trust

Sex Education Policy

Date of Review	Approved by	Date of Approval	Next Review Date	Website
May 2018	Board	24/5/2018	May 2021	Yes

Introduction

The Trust is aware that children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education. The regulations also make Health Education compulsory in Academies. The Trust believes that RSHE is an important dimension of this statutory entitlement, and that it should be complementary to and supportive of the role of parents in educating their children about relationships and sexuality.

AIMS OF RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION

The aim of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) is to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage, civil partnership or other type of committed relationship. It should also cover contraception, developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure). It should teach what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships. This will help students understand the positive effects that good relationships have on their mental wellbeing, identify when relationships are not right and understand how such situations can be managed. Our RSHE policy will provide clear progression from what is taught in the primary curriculum. We will build on the foundation of learning and, as pupils grow up, at the appropriate time extend teaching to include intimate relationships. Alongside being taught intimate relationships, pupils will also be taught about family relationships, friendships and other kinds of relationships that are an equally important part of becoming a successful and happy adult.

The benefits of planned parenthood within a stable relationship are discussed as an integral part of the course.

Relationships and Sex Education plays an important part in fulfilling the statutory duties all schools have to meet. As section 2.1 of the National Curriculum framework (DfE, 2013) states:

‘Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- **promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society**
- **prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life**

These duties are set out in the 2002 Education Act and the 2010 Academies Act. Whole school (Section 5) Ofsted inspections consider the extent to which a school provides such a curriculum.

1. **Definition: What is Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)**

- 1.1 RSE is not merely about biological facts and information, but should also emphasise the skills, attitudes and values that young people need in order to form loving and caring relationships and a basic preparation for adult life.
- 1.2 It is a developmental process, and should be appropriate to the age and development of the child.
- 1.3 It should consider:
 - 1.3.1 Exploration of feelings about love, gender identity, sexuality, responsibility towards self and others.
 - 1.3.2 Moral, legal, cultural and ethical dimensions, including the value of family life.
 - 1.3.3 Biological facts and how the human body works.
 - 1.3.4 The development of skills including decision making, assertiveness and communication.

2. **Aims**

- 2.1 To challenge ignorance and increase knowledge and understanding, by providing full, honest information about the physical, emotional and social aspects of human sexual development, including the nature of love, personal relationships and family life.
- 2.2 To reduce anxiety, by discussing the variability of human sexual behaviour and relationships.
- 2.3 To promote responsible behaviour, by stressing individual responsibility for sexual behaviour.
- 2.4 To combat exploitation, by promoting an awareness of the misuse of sex.
- 2.5 To promote the ability to make informed decisions, and to help young people develop the ability to determine their own values within a moral framework.
- 2.6 To facilitate communication on sexual matters.
- 2.7 To incorporate understanding and skills as part of lifelong learning and possible parenthood.

3. **Parental Right to Remove Children from Relationships and Sex Education Lessons**

- 3.1 The Governors recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their children from RSE lessons up to the age of 15.
- 3.2 All parents will be asked whether they wish to withdraw their children from RSE lessons when their child enters the school.
- 3.3 Appropriate arrangements will be made for children who are withdrawn from RSE lessons to be supervised in a different room, in such a way that it does not draw attention to the fact that they have been withdrawn from the lessons by their parent(s).