



RELATIONSHIPS, SEX & HEALTH EDUCATION POLICY

Policy:	Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy
Reviewers:	Executive Team
Approved by:	Local Governing Body
Date:	16 th July 2024
Review cycle:	2 Years

VERSION CONTROL		
DATE	AUTHOR	CHANGES
July 2020	Caroline Ashley	2.1 Removal of reference to Year 7 programme and tutor programme. Page 5 addition of new charter.
July 2024	Carl Bennett/Adam Cave	Policy name Reviewer name Change SRE to RSHE Added section 2.8 regarding parent/carer rights. Section 3 of Charter – addition of contextual safeguarding issues identified by the safeguarding team.

RELATIONSHIPS, SEX & HEALTH EDUCATION POLICY

Our vision is to create a distinctively Christian and values driven environment that provides the best start to the 70 or more great years our students should enjoy when they leave our school. Our students should have the opportunity to live life in all its fullness and be good citizens wherever they may be.

1 Principles

- 1.1 The prime responsibility for bringing up children rests with parents and carers, who play a key role in educating their children about sexuality and relationships.
- 1.2 In order that students can experience life in all its fulness, relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) is based on inclusive Christian principles and values, emphasising respect, forgiveness (2 of our values), compassion and loving care. It is taught in the light of the belief in the absolute worth of all persons.
- 1.3 *Christian Values:* As an Academy with Christian ethos, RSHE should be sensitive to the circumstances of all students and be mindful of the variety of expressions of family life in our culture. However, whilst not exclusively promoting a Christian approach to RSHE, students will be provided with the knowledge and understanding of Christian perspectives with regard to sexual relationships alongside other views. This knowledge and understanding will include the place of marriage and loving relationships as the basis of the Christian approach to sexual relationships and the raising of children.
- 1.4 Relationships and sex education aims to support the personal and social development of all students, to equip them to make their own informed decisions regarding sexual health and relationships within the law
- 1.5 Relationships and sex education should help students develop self-awareness, self-confidence and the skills to avoid and resist unwanted sexual experiences. It should provide accurate information and knowledge, and promote understanding and tolerance of differing views and perspectives.
- 1.6 Parents may withdraw their children from all or part of any sex education provided, but not from education concerning the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction specified in the national curriculum for science.

2 Programme

- 2.1 The relationships and sex education programme will be provided through several curriculum areas, including the Religious Studies, PSHE days/events and Science.
- 2.2 Teaching will normally be provided to mixed groups but where appropriate may be provided to single sex groups.
- 2.3 When teaching elements of the programme, staff will adhere to the relevant scheme of work and avoid dealing with issues which are inappropriate for the maturity level of the majority of the class. They will encourage students to recognise the value of loving and caring relationships, the implications of parenthood and the needs of young children. They will seek to counteract misleading myths and folklore.
- 2.4 Sensitive issues that may arise include love, marriage, divorce, cohabitation, homosexuality, abortion and rape. These issues will be addressed with sensitivity

and in an objective manner free from personal bias. Account will be taken of different viewpoints and students will be made aware of the law as it relates to these issues.

- 2.5 Where a student seeks advice on a personal basis, staff will encourage the student to seek advice from their parent or carer in the first instance and then, if appropriate, from a health service professional such as their GP or the School Nurse.
- 2.6 The professional development of staff involved in teaching the sex education programme is important, and we will provide relevant training.
- 2.7 Where the staff of other agencies assist in providing the programme, we will ensure that they operate in accordance with this policy.
- 2.8 Parents and carers have the right to request full access to any materials that are used to deliver the RSHE curriculum.

3 Particular Issues

- 3.1 *Contraception:* Methods of contraception will be explained together with information about agencies offering help and advice. Teachers will not give personal advice on contraception to individuals.
- 3.2 *Abortion:* Students will be presented with a balanced treatment of abortion, incorporating legal restrictions and respecting the range of religious beliefs.
- 3.3 *STIs and HIV/AIDS:* Students will learn about the range of sexually transmitted infections, the difference between HIV and AIDS, modes of transmission, the importance of hygiene and the need to avoid high-risk behaviour.
- 3.4 *Sexuality:* Students will learn about puberty, sexual development, sexual activity and sexual orientation. Support for this can be found in the Church of England report and advisory document 'Valuing All God's Children'.
- 3.5 *Confidentiality:* Staff will work in the best interests of students and where appropriate confidentiality will be maintained, but absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Students will be encouraged to talk to their parents or carers and given support to do so. Only in exceptional circumstances will staff deal with information without parental knowledge.
- 3.6 *Disclosure:* Should a student make a disclosure of sexual abuse, our Designated Safeguarding Lead or our Child Protection Officer will be informed and our Child Protection Policy or Abuse Allegation procedure invoked.

4 Other Associated Policies

- 4.1 Child Protection Policy
- 4.2 Abuse Allegation Procedure

5 Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

- 5.1 The policy will be promoted and published throughout the Academy.
- 5.2 The Governing Body will review it within two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

A CHARTER FOR FAITH SENSITIVE AND INCLUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION (RSHE)

In The Samworth Church Academy we seek to provide Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), which will enable all students to flourish.

We commit:

1. To work in partnership with parents and carers. This will involve dialogue with parents and carers through all stages of policy development as well as discussing the resources used to teach their children and how they can contribute at home. It must, however, be recognised that the law specifies that what is taught and how it is taught is ultimately a decision for the Academy.
2. That RSHE will be delivered professionally and as an identifiable part of PSHE. It will be led, resourced and reported to parents in the same way as any other subject. There will be a planned programme delivered in a carefully sequenced way, taking into account any contextual safeguarding issues identified by the safeguarding team. Staff will receive regular training in RSHE and PSHE. Any expert visitors or trainers invited into the school to enhance and supplement the programme will be expected to respect the Academy's published policy for RSHE.
3. That RSHE will be delivered in a way that affords dignity and shows respect to all who make up our diverse community. It will not discriminate against any of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act and will be sensitive to the faith and beliefs of those in the wider Academy community. RSHE will seek to fairly explain the varying interpretations of religious communities on matters of relationships and sex and teach these viewpoints with respect. It will value the importance of faithfulness as the underpinning and backdrop for relationships. It will encourage students to develop the skills needed to disagree without being disagreeable, to appreciate the lived experience of other people and to live well together.
4. That RSHE will seek to build resilience in our students to help them form healthy and positive relationships, to keep themselves safe and resist the harmful influence of pornography in all its forms. It will give students opportunities to reflect on values and influences including their peers, the media, the internet, faith and culture that may have shaped their attitudes to gender, relationships and sex. It will promote the development of the wisdom and skills our students need to make their own informed decisions.
5. That RSHE will promote healthy resilient relationships set in the context of character and virtue development. It will reflect the vision and associated values of the Academy, promote reverence for the gift of human sexuality and encourage relationships that are hopeful and aspirational. Based on the Academy Values it will seek to develop character within a moral framework.
6. That RSHE will be based on honest and medically accurate information from reliable sources of information, including about the law and legal rights. It will distinguish between different types of knowledge and opinions so that students can learn about their bodies and sexual and reproductive health as appropriate to their age and maturity.
7. To take a particular care to meet the individual needs of all students including those with special needs and disabilities. It will ensure that lessons and any resources used will be accessible and sensitive to the learning needs of the individual child. We acknowledge the potential vulnerability of students who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and recognise the possibilities and rights of SEND students to high quality Relationships and Sex Education.
8. To seek students' views about RSHE so that the teaching can be made relevant to their lives. It will discuss real life issues relating to the age and stage of students, including friendships, families, faith, consent, relationship abuse, exploitation and safe relationships online. This will be carefully targeted and age appropriate based on a teacher judgment about student readiness for this information in consultation with parents and carers.