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Policy for

**Sex and Relationships**

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Prepared by:	Adopted by Board of Directors	Signed	Renewal Date (3 year cycle)
		----- Chair of Board of Directors	

## **SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION**

### **Statutory Framework**

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) is a statutory policy which all academies must follow. The legal framework is provided through Sex and Relationship Education Guidance, published in 2000.

Schools maintain a statutory obligation under the Children Act (2004) to promote their pupils' wellbeing, and under the Education Act (1996) to prepare children and young people for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

In 2015 the House of Commons Education Committee produced a report *Life Lessons: PSHE and SRE in schools* which informs this AET policy.

### **AIMS:**

Sex and Relationships Education aims to help children to understand the facts about sex and sexuality, to develop self-esteem, respect for others and to build self confidence in decision making.

The development of self-esteem is central; children who feel positive about themselves are more likely to develop caring relationships. The programme for sex and relationships education is firmly rooted in the context of moral considerations and family relationships.

SRE is organised within the PSHE framework and is designed to be inclusive and to meet the needs of all children, developing mutual respect, rights and responsibilities and equality with regard to gender and sexuality and acceptance of diversity.

### **PRINCIPLES**

Children and young people have a right to good quality education, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children and young people want to be prepared for the physical and emotional changes they undergo at puberty, and young people want to learn about relationships.

Older pupils frequently say that sex and relationships education was *too little, too late and too biological*. Ofsted reinforced this in their 2013 *Not Yet Good Enough* report. Because children at AET academies are not yet *older pupils* we have an opportunity, even a responsibility to address this point by providing age-appropriate education to prepare them for puberty and relationships.

SRE plays a vital part in meeting schools' safeguarding obligations. Ofsted is clear that schools must have a preventative programme that enables pupils to learn about safety and risks in relationships.

It is expected that SRE will be taught as an integrated aspect of PSHE. Age-appropriate SRE teaching is essential to keeping pupils safe and healthy, inside and outside the school gates. A comprehensive SRE programme can have a positive impact on pupils' health and wellbeing and their ability to achieve, and can play a crucial part in meeting these obligations. A good PSHE education provides children with both the knowledge and skills to manage their lives, stay safe, make the right decisions and thrive as individuals and members of society. It provides children with opportunities to develop skills and qualities such as resilience, leadership, communication, empathy and perseverance. We know that these skills are not innate and that they should be actively taught and developed in school.

### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

#### **The Local Governing Body will**

Seek the advice of the Principal on this policy and make it available to parents via the website

Ensure that sex and relationships education is provided in a way that encourages pupils to consider morals, the value of family life, and the importance of marriage within a context of diversity

Use their discretion to accept or reject requests from parents for their children to be withdrawn from any sex and relationships education to which they object.

Support the academy policy to show sensitivity to the views of parents whose ethnic background and/or religious beliefs cause them to hold strong reservations about such education within a context of British Values.

#### **The Principal will ensure that**

A scheme of work is developed, agreed and implemented by the teachers responsible for teaching PSHE.

Ensure that the scheme of work is informed by current best practice including The PSHE Association Guidance Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) for the 21st Century.

Ensure that the scheme of work is informed by best practice guidance provided through

The Local Governing Body is advised about sex and relationships education at the Academy

Sex and relationships education is provided in a way that encourages pupils to consider morals, the value of family life, and the importance of respect, love and commitment in relationships.

Pupils are protected from inappropriate teaching materials

Parents are informed about the programme for sex and relationships education via the prospectus and academy website

**Staff will:**

Implement the academy's agreed scheme of work

Provide sex and relationships education in accordance with this policy and in a way which encourages pupils to consider morals, the quality of relationships and the value of family life

Participate in training (where applicable) to provide sex and relationships education in line with the academy policy

Draw the attention of the Principal to any materials which they consider to be inappropriate

Respond appropriately to those pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from sex and relationships education