



Relationship and Sex Education Policy (RSE)

Rationale

The Academy fully recognises its responsibility to provide Relationship and Sex Education that prepares students to lead safe, fulfilling and enjoyable lives and is in accordance with DfE guidance:

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, students need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. Students can also put this knowledge into practice as they develop the capacity to make sound decisions when facing risks, challenges and complex contexts. Everyone faces difficult situations in their lives. These subjects can support young people to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support. High quality, evidence-based and age-appropriate teaching of these subjects can help prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. They can also enable schools to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of students, at school and in society. Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers – July 2018 (Draft).

Section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 provides for relationships and sex education to be taught in all schools in England. Following consultation, the RSE proposals are intended to be in place for teaching to start in September 2020. Wellacre will commence teaching the updated framework from September, 2018.

This policy has also been informed by *Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) for the 21st century* (Brook, PSHE Association and Sex Education Forum, 2014).

What Is Relationship and Sex Education?

Relationship and Sex education is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. A comprehensive programme of RSE provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health. It also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline.

High quality RSE helps create safe school communities in which students can grow, learn, and develop positive, healthy behaviour for life. It is essential for the following reasons:

- 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.
- RSE plays a vital part in meeting schools' safeguarding obligations.
- Schools maintain a statutory obligation under the Children Act (2004) to promote their students' wellbeing, and under the Education Act (1996) to prepare children and young people for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

Relationship and Sex Education at Wellacre:

- is a partnership between home and school;
- ensures children and young people's views are actively sought to influence age-appropriate lesson planning and teaching;
- includes the acquisition of knowledge, the development of life skills and respectful attitudes and values ;
- has allocated time to cover a wide range of topics, with a strong emphasis on relationships (including friendship, familial and intimate), consent, rights, responsibilities to others, negotiation and communication skills, and accessing services;
- helps students understand on and offline safety, consent and exploitation;
- is inclusive of difference: gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, culture, age, faith or belief, or other life experience;
- helps students understand a range of views and beliefs about relationships and sex in society including some of the different messages about gender, sex and sexuality from different sources including the media;
- teaches students about the law and their rights, and is linked to school-based and community health services and organisations;
- promotes equality in relationships, recognises and challenges gender inequality and reflects girls' and boys' different experiences and needs;
- promotes better understanding of diversity and inclusion, a reduction in gender-based and homophobic prejudice, bullying and violence and an understanding of the difference between consenting and exploitative relationships;
- aims to help students keep themselves safe from harm, both on and offline and build confidence in accessing services if they need help and advice.

Delivery

Relationship and Sex Education is primarily delivered through the timetabled PSHRE element programme of study, known as RESPECT lessons. This element is delivered primarily by the Achievement Tutor. In addition to this, aspects of RSE are included in the schemes of work for other subjects such as Science, Humanities, English and Drama. Additionally, there are fortnightly themed assemblies and visiting speakers to the Academy that also enhance the teaching of Relationship and Sex Education. The school works with a wide variety of local and national organisations including Trafford School Nurse Service, Proud Trust and Trafford Safeguarding Team.

Training is provided for teachers as necessary to support them and to ensure content and methodology are in line with current guidelines and best practice. Overall responsibility for the RSE programme is taken by a member of the Academy Leadership Team. Details of the RESPECT programmes of study (incorporating RSE) are published and updated via the Wellacre website termly. Knowledge Organisers are also published termly for parents, and will outline elements of RSE covered in other taught subjects.

Please see Appendix 1 (Overview of RSE topics and when taught at Wellacre).

Confidentiality

The Academy's work in Relationship and Sex Education will result in sensitive issues being discussed, either with groups of students or with individuals. We will:

- ◆ reassure students that their best interests will be maintained;
- ◆ encourage students to talk to their parents/carers and provide support in this if necessary;
- ◆ ensure that students are aware that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality;
- ◆ inform students that if an external agency needs to be informed, they will be told first and supported appropriately;
- ◆ pursue the Child Protection guidelines and procedures if there is any possibility of abuse;
- ◆ ensure that students are informed of sources of confidential help.

Inclusion

Ethnic and Cultural Groups

The Policy is sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups. For some young people it is not culturally appropriate for them to be taught particular items. The Academy will respond to parental requests and concerns. Any requests or concerns must be put in writing to the Academy Principal via jlyons@wellacre.org

Learners with Special Needs

The Academy will ensure that all young people receive relationship and sex education and will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all learners, taking specialist advice where necessary.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

The Academy aims to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality need to feel that relationship and sex education is relevant to them.

The use of outside visiting speakers and health professionals

Visitors will only take part in sex education lessons with the agreement of the ALT line manager of sex education. Visitors are made fully aware of the Academy's Sex Education Policy. All visitors are subject to the school's safeguarding policy.

The right of parents to withdraw their child from Sex Education

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex education except from those elements that are in the National Curriculum for science. **Requests should be made, in writing, to the Principal via jlyons@wellacre.org.** Parents are not obliged to give their reasons for wishing to withdraw their child, but are encouraged to discuss the matter with a senior member of staff.

E-Safety - Use of Internet Facilities, Mobile and Digital Technologies

The Academy expects all staff and students to use the Internet, mobile and digital technologies responsibly and strictly according to the conditions below.

Users shall not visit Internet sites, make, post, download, upload or pass on, material, remarks, proposals or comments that contain or relate to:

1. Indecent images of children.
2. Other indecent images.
3. Promoting illegal acts.
4. Any other information which may be offensive to peers or colleagues e.g. abusive images; promotion of violence.

The Academy recognises that in certain planned curricular activities, access to otherwise deemed inappropriate sites may be beneficial for educational use. In such circumstances, there is an expectation that access is pre-planned and recorded.

Incidents which appear to involve deliberate access to websites, newsgroups and online groups that contain the following material will be reported to the Police:

1. Images of child abuse (images of children whether they are digital or cartoons, apparently under 16 years old, involved in sexual activity or posed to be sexually provocative);
2. Adult material that potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act in the UK;
3. Other criminal activity.

The Academy regularly monitors websites that have been visited and student emails. The responsibility of monitoring will be the Leader of ICT Infrastructure. The Leadership Team and the Academy's' Safeguarding Protection Officer will be informed if there are any concerns with students.

Links to other policies:

- ◆ Safeguarding and Child Protection
- ◆ Behaviour for Learning
- ◆ Anti-Bullying
- ◆ E-Safety
- ◆ Student ICT Acceptable Use Policy

Parents are invited to discuss this policy, or any aspects of RSE at Wellacre, with the designated member of the Academy Leadership Team for RSE, and should contact the academy for an appointment if necessary. This policy will be reviewed annually and approved by the principal and governors.

APPENDIX 1

Please see the table below for guidance and information relating to when Relationship and Sex Education is delivered at Wellacre, according to our planned and taught curriculum across all subjects. Due to the nature of teaching and learning, the timescales outlined may be flexible, and elements of RSE may be re-visited at other times and in other contexts.

	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
AU1	Safe online talk (including gender stereotypes and sexting) - Computing New School, New Friendships	Safe online talk (including gender stereotypes and sexting) - Computing Prejudice and Stereotypes	Safe online talk (including gender stereotypes and sexting) - Computing Abortion - RE Relationships and Social Media	Reproduction - Science (revised throughout the year)	Reproduction – Science (revised throughout the year) School Nurse Assembly - Sexually Transmitted Infections
AU2	Anti-Bullying	Different types of relationships	Gender and sexuality	Consent	Sexual Health
SP1	Reproduction - Science Child Sexual Exploitation Cyber Bullying	Reproduction - Science Child Sexual Exploitation	Relationship and Families - RE Sexting and the Law	Sex and the Media	Pornography
SP2	Reproduction - Science	Reproduction - Science	Relationship and Families – RE Healthy Relationships (inc. Peer on Peer abuse and Domestic Violence) Female Genital Mutilation		
SU1			Contraception		
SU2				An Inspector Calls - English (insinuated sexual assault discussed - Revised in Year 11).	