



Relationships and Sex Education Policy 2023-25

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1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) in our School is to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
- Prepare students for puberty and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
- Help students develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy.
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.
- Teach students the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.
- The Centre School support the DfE ambition for all young people to stay safe and prepared for life in modern Britain, this objective is realised through the development of this policy.
- The Centre School has the freedom to deliver content appropriate to the age of the students and their religious backgrounds within the framework for PSHE which includes RSE, (App1a and App1b for primary and secondary academies consecutively).

2. Statutory requirements

As a secondary academy school we must provide RSE to all students as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017. In teaching RSE, we are 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. As part of Astrea Academy Trust we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

This policy is informed by DfE statutory guidance and advice (March 2019)

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with The Centre School Local Governance Committee (LGC), staff, students and families. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

- i) Staff consultation: all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations.
- ii) Family/stakeholder consultation: parents, families and any interested parties were invited to contribute to the policy.
- iii) student consultation: Students were invited to offer their thoughts and opinions on what should be taught in RSE.
- iv) Ratification: once amendments were made, the policy was shared with the LGC and Astrea Regional Director, before being adopted.

4. Definition

RSE is delivered in Astrea Academy Trusts and provides the statutory relationships and sex education defined in legislation. RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of students, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values. RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5. Curriculum

Our curriculum framework is set out as per Appendix 1a & 1b, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

The Centre School have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, students and staff, considering the age, needs and feelings of students. If students ask questions outside the scope of this policy, staff will respond in an appropriate manner, so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

Should an issue be identified that students have concerns over then this will be addressed within PSHE lessons.

For more information about our RSE expected curriculum outcomes, see Appendix 2 and 3.

6. Delivery of RSE

Relationships Education and RSE related topics within The Centre School curriculum are age-appropriate and have considered the needs of all students. RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum. The delivery of relationships education and RSE is complemented in delivery through parents, families, health professionals, youth workers, peer educators, the police and the wider community.

The Head of PSHE will work closely with colleagues supporting RSE sessions and ensure appropriate training, guidance and support. PSHE, in the context of Relationships Education and RSE, will reflect

content appropriate to the age of the students and their religious backgrounds. This education will likely focus on:

- Healthy bodies and lifestyles, including keeping safe, puberty, drugs and alcohol education.
- Healthy minds, including positive mental health, emotional wellbeing, resilience.
- Economic well-being and financial capability.
- Careers education, preparation for the workplace and making a positive contribution to society.

RSE 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 RSE curriculum, see App3.

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The Centre School Local Governance Committee (LGC)

The Principal will review this policy every two years or where guidance requires.

TCS LGC to hold the Principal to account for its implementation.

7.2 The Principal

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw students from components of RSE (see section 8).

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way modelling positive attitudes to RSE monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual students
- Responding appropriately to students whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the components of RSE
- Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE.
- Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Principal.

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the 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 4 of this policy and addressed to the Principal. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the student's educational record. The Principal will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to students who are withdrawn from sex education and they will be appropriately supervised for the duration of the specified time.