

Relationship & Sex Education Policy

Introduction

ARK ALL SAINTS ACADEMY is an academy with the highest expectations of its scholars, staff, and parents. Our vision is for all members of our All Saints family to be confident, responsible, and successful and to live with integrity. This will enable our scholars to be well prepared for the next phase of their journey whether that is to university or in pursuing the career of their choice.

We welcome scholars of all faiths and none to our Church of England academy where our guiding principles are based on Christian values.

We treat every scholar as an individual and we work with them and their families to develop and nurture their talents.

This policy covers our school's approach to providing relationships and sex education (RSE) that equips our scholars with the tools to become confident, responsible, successful and act with integrity as they prepare for the next phase of their journey as young adults and beyond.

Relationships and Sex Education is now mandatory part of the curriculum in all schools across the United Kingdom from September 2020.

Guiding Principles

At Ark All Saints Academy the teaching of relationships and sex education will ensure that our scholars:

- Are informed about healthy relationships, safe decisions, emotions, sex, gender, sexuality, sexual health, and diversity without prejudice
- Place healthy relationships before sex to emphasise the importance of healthy relationships within sex
- Develop confidence, self-esteem, personal and social skills a positive attitude to sexual health and wellbeing
- Provide opportunities for scholars to acquire information and form attitudes and beliefs about sex, gender, sexual identity, diversity, relationships, and intimacy within a safe and nurturing environment
- Are granted the opportunity to develop life skills within a Christian moral framework that aims to assist them in making good decisions about their lives
- Develop skills of assertiveness, confidence, and communication so that they make informed choices about their behaviour and feel confident and competent about acting on these choices and voicing their decisions
- Develop healthy relationship building skills so that their friendships are supportive and nurturing
- Are provided with the opportunity to explore their own values and develop their own moral framework
- Understand and accept difference and diversity and respect the right of others to hold opinions that differ from their own if these views do not impact on the rights of others
- Develop an understanding of their own bodies and to have awareness of the rights they have over their own bodies
- Know where to seek help and advice and identifying risk and safe choices
- Take responsibility for and accept the consequences of their own actions
- Internet safety and the ability to navigate the online world safely and appropriately

Practice and Guidance

The Ark All Saints Academy RSE Policy is based on the principle of RSE being a lifelong learning process of acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs and attitudes about healthy relationships, sex, sexuality, gender identity and feelings.



Ark All Saints Academy

The academy believes that scholars have the right to sex education. It is a means by which they can protect themselves from abuse, exploitation, unintended pregnancies, STIs and HIV/AIDS. RSE at Ark All Saints Academy will also provide scholars with a safe space to ask questions and gain information and understanding about a subject that is at the core of human existence.

Ark All Saints will take reasonable steps to notify parents when scholars will be having RSE lessons. We recognise the importance of home and school and believe the key to successful RSE can only be achieved with a collaboration between the two.

We will ensure RSE is inclusive and will ensure it meets the needs of all scholars including our scholars with special educational needs and disabilities by tailoring group sessions to cater for needs and small targeted focus groups with specialised staff to support and promote learning.

RSE is an educational entitlement for children and should support our scholars in managing puberty and adolescence and prepare them for an adult life in which they can:

- Be aware of and enjoy their own sexuality
- Develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements, and behaviour
- Have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others
- Behave responsibly within sexual and personal relationships
- Communicate effectively
- Have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and their partner from unintended/unwanted conceptions and STIs including HIV
- Neither exploit others nor be exploited
- Access confidential advice and support
- Have awareness of a Christian perspective

Effective RSE can make a significant contribution to the development of the personal skills needed by scholars if they are to establish and maintain relationships.

Effective RSE is essential if young people are to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives. It helps support young people through their physical, emotional, and moral development. It helps young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.

Legislation (statutory and regulations guidance)

New guidance from the Department of Education states that all schools must deliver relationships education and RSE from September 2020 as part of a revised statutory status.

“Parents/ Carers have the right to withdraw their child from some of all of sex education delivered as part of the statutory RSE (but not from Relationships or Health Education).” SRE Guidance, DfE 2019 Any concerns about the content of the RSE curriculum should contact the Behaviour and Citizenship Coordinator who will be able to assist and advise. If a parent wishes to withdraw their child from parts of the curriculum a letter must be written to the principal who will arrange a meeting to discuss the concerns. Please be aware that relationships and health education is now compulsory, and parents are only able to withdraw their children from sex education aspect of the curriculum delivery.

Further Recommendations

This Relationships and Sex Education Policy is informed by:

- DfE Relationship Education, Relationship and Sex Education Statutory Guidance 2019
- DfE Relationships and Sex Education (Secondary) Statutory Guidance 2019
- DfE Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing: Primary and Secondary 2019
- DfE Relationship and Sex Education, and Health Education in England 2019
- Keeping Children Safe in Education- Updated 2019

- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 1996

The governing bodies of schools are required to keep an up to date RSE policy that describes content and the organisation of RSE provided outside the national curriculum science order.

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