

PHSE/RSE Policy

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1. Statement of intent

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education along with Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is delivered through 'Learning for Life' lessons at Oak Academy. The lessons make a significant contribution to the promotion of young people's personal and social development. This is an essential aspect of education, supporting learning across all curriculum areas. Through the promotion of PSHE, skills are developed that our pupils need for them to grow and flourish as individuals and members of society. Studying PSHE contributes to helping children and young people to build their personal identities, confidence, and self-esteem. It helps them to make career choices, understand managing their finances and what influences their decision-making process. PSHE enables them to recognise and manage their emotions and to communicate positively in a range of different scenarios. Overall, the PSHE curriculum at Ambitions Academies Trust supports the 'Personal Development' and 'Behaviour and Attitude' aspects required under the Ofsted Inspection Framework, as well as contributing significantly to the Safeguarding and Equality Duties, the Government's British Values agenda and the Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) opportunities provided to all pupils.

2. Statutory RSE and Health Education

Relationships education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under section 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education.

"Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal, and social lives in a positive way."

"This is why we have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools."

"In primary schools, we want the subjects to put in place the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. This will sit alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy. At secondary, teaching will build on the knowledge acquired at primary and develop further pupils' understanding of health, with an increased focus on risk areas such as drugs and alcohol, as well as introducing knowledge about intimate relationships and sex."

"These subjects represent a huge opportunity to help our children and young people develop. The knowledge and attributes gained will support their own, and others' wellbeing and attainment and help young people to become successful and happy adults who make a meaningful contribution to society."

Secretary of State Foreword, Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. DfE Guidance 2019 p.4-5.

"Schools are free to determine how to deliver the content set out in the DfE guidance 2019 in the context of a broad and balanced curriculum. Effective teaching in these subjects will ensure that core knowledge is broken down into units of manageable size and communicated clearly to pupils, in a carefully sequenced way, within a planned programme of lessons."

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. DfE Guidance p.8

"All schools must have in place a written policy for Relationships and Sex Education."

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. DfE Guidance p.11.

The DfE Guidance 2019 at secondary school level relates to the 'intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health' section of the guidance and includes:

- Facts about reproductive health
- Facts about the full range of contraceptive choices
- How sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS are transmitted
- How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment
- Consent and the law
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. DfE Guidance page29

Ambitions Academies Trust include the statutory Relationships, Sex and Health Education within the PSHE curriculum as our pupils need help and advice to help them develop healthy relationships, not just those of an intimate nature, but of all kinds.

We aim to help them understand what a healthy relationship looks like and teach them what is and is not acceptable behaviour. We want to enable our pupils to understand and respect who they are and empower them with a voice which enables them to act according to their beliefs and that supports them throughout their lives.

3. Safeguarding and Responsibility

PSHE and RSE work with pupils' real-life experiences, and it is key that both staff and pupils are protected in these lessons. A safe and supportive environment is created using ground rules.

- Listen to each other (only one person talks at a time)
- Keep to time
- Challenge the statement; not the individual making it
- The 'right' not to answer questions

- No personal questions to be asked by pupils or teachers
- If giving an example, make it anonymous.
- Everyone has a right to his or her own space.
- Right to Privacy.

Many issues covered in PSHE and RSE are of a sensitive nature. The ground rules provide a safe working environment for both pupils and staff. All staff at the Ambitions Academies Trust receive safeguarding training.

Due to nature of the topics covered in the PSHE and RSE education programmes, all teachers are made aware of the Ambitions Academies Trust guidelines on confidentiality and disclosure. The boundaries around confidentiality are made explicit to learners.

4. Equality

The PSHE and RSE policy at Ambitions Academies Trust promotes respect and value for each individual pupil. The DfE Guidance 2019 (p.15) states,

"Schools should ensure that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect. Schools must ensure they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010 under which sexual orientation and gender reassignment are amongst the protected characteristics."

Schools within the Trust are free to determine how and when they teach the pupils about LGBT content (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) and all pupils are taught the LGBT content at a timely point as part of the curriculum.

At Ambitions Academies Trust, we respect the right of pupils, their families, and our staff, to hold beliefs, religious or otherwise, and understand that sometimes these may be different with our approach to some aspects of RSE and Health Education.

5. SEND

Ambitions Academies Trust prides itself on its inclusive policy and how we make provision for all pupils' needs. This is no exception for PSHE and RSE. High quality teaching is differentiated and personalised to meet the needs of all pupils.

6. Assessing

As with any learning, the assessment of pupils' PSHE and RSE is important as it enables the teacher to gauge their progress and it also informs the development of the lessons. Pupils do not pass or fail this area of learning, but have the opportunity to reflect upon their personal learning experience, set goals, and record their understanding in a range of ways, posters, leaflets, reflective diaries etc. Their progress is also monitored during class discussions, group work, questionnaires/surveys, and peer assessment. Pupil voice is also used to adapt and amend material for PSHE and RSE and ensure it is relevant and effective to both our learners and wider community.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

The Academies Advisory Committee

The PSHE and RSE policy will be approved by Ambitions Academies Trust governing body and they will hold the Principals to account for its implementation.

The Assistant Vice Principal of SMSC

It is the responsibility of the Assistant Vice-Principal to ensure that PSHE and RSE is taught consistently across the school.

It is also their responsibility to manage any requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE

Staff

The staff across Ambitions Academies Trust are responsible for:

- The delivery of PSHE and RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to PSHE and RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils

Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents/carers wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory 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.

Pupils

There is an expectation that all pupils across the Ambitions Academies Trust fully engage in PSHE and RSE and follow the ground rules (as specified above) thus ensuring they treat others with respect and sensitivity.

Parents

All parents have access to the PSHE and RSE policy and are invited to feedback directly to the school and participate with surveys and questionnaires as part of our consultation process.

8. Parents right to withdraw from RSE

Parents' have the right to withdraw their child from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wished to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this. Students are not able to be withdrawn from the 'Health Education' topics within the new curriculum.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 2 of this policy and addressed to the Principal.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Principal will discuss the request with the parents and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

9. Visitors

Ambitions Academies Trust value working with external partners as they enhance the delivery of PSHE and RSE with specialist knowledge and different ways of engaging our pupils. As part of the PSHE and RSE educational package, outside visitors will be invited to deliver appropriate sessions to pupils within the Trust.

All visitors are subject to the Trust's Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and the credentials of visiting organisations, and any visitors linked to external agencies are always checked. The Trust also ensures that the teaching delivered by visitors fits with the planned programme of study. The content of lessons provided by external agencies is age appropriate and accessible for all pupils and is approved by the school in advance of delivery.

As with all PSHE and RSE lessons, The Trust will ensure that guest speakers / visitors are aware of the confidentiality and safeguarding policy. Any matters reported by visitors to the lead teacher will be dealt with in line with the Trust's Safeguarding Policy

10. Curriculum Design

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

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

Appendix 1 – Curriculum Outline

Year/age	Being Me in My World	Celebrating Difference	Dreams and Goals	Healthy Me	Relationships	Changing Me
Year 7 (11-12)	Unique me, differences & Conflict, my influences, gateway emotions, belonging to a group, peer pressure, peer on peer abuse, online safety, sexting, consequences, online legislation	Bullying, prejudice & discrimination (positive and negative), Equality Act, bystanders, stereotyping, challenging influences, negative behaviour and attitudes, peer on peer abuse, assertiveness	Celebrating success, identifying goals, employment, learning from mistakes, overcoming challenges, planning skills, safe & unsafe choices, substances, gangs, knives, exploitation, emergency first aid	Stress and anxiety, managing mental health, physical activity and mental health, effects of substances, legal consequences, nutrition, sleep, vaccination and immunisation, importance of information on making health choices	Characteristics of healthy relationships, consent, relationships and change, emotions within friendships, peer on peer abuse, rights and responsibilities, being discerning, assertiveness, sexting	Puberty changes, Reproduction facts, FGM, breast flattening/ ironing, responsibilities of parenthood, IVF, types of committed relationships, media and self-esteem, self-image, brain changes in puberty, factors affecting moods, sources of help and support
Year 8 (12-13)	Self-identity, influences, family and identity, stereotypes, personal beliefs, and judgements, managing expectations, first impressions, respect for the beliefs of others Marriage Protected characteristics Active listening	Positive change made by others, how positive behaviour affects feelings of wellbeing, social injustice, inequality, community cohesion and support, multi- culturalism, diversity, race and religion, stereotypes, prejudice, LGBT+ bullying, peer on peer abuse hate crime, fear & emotions Stand up to bullying, the golden rule Organ and blood donation	Long-term goals, skills, qualifications, careers, money and happiness, ethics and mental wellbeing, budgeting, variation in income, positive and negative impact of money, online safety and legal responsibilities, gambling issues	Long-term physical health, responsibility for own health, dental health, stress triggers and help tips, substances and mood, legislation associated with substances, exploitation and substances, county lines, medicine, vaccinations, immunisation	Positive relationship with self, social media and relationship with self, negative self-talk, managing a range of relationships, peer on peer abuse, personal space, online etiquette, online privacy, bullying and personal safety, social media issues and the law, coercion, unhealthy balance of power in relationships, sources of support	Types of close intimate relationships, physical attraction, love, legal status of relationships, behaviours in healthy and unhealthy romantic relationships, pornography, sexuality, alcohol, and risky behaviour
Year 9 (13-14)	Perceptions about intimate relationships, consent, sexual exploitation, peer approval, peer on peer abuse, grooming, radicalisation, county lines, risky experimentation, positive and negative self-identity, groups, influences, social media, abuse and coercion, coercive control	Protected characteristics, Equality Act, phobic and racist language, legal consequences of bullying and hate crime, sexism, ageism, positive and negative language, banter, peer on peer abuse, bullying in the workplace, direct and indirect discrimination, harassment, victimisation. Prejudice, discrimination, and stereotyping	Personal strengths, health goals, SMART planning, the world of work, links between body image and mental health, non-financial dreams and goals, mental health and ill health, media manipulation, self-harm, self-esteem, stigma, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, depression	Misperceptions about young peoples' health choices, physical and psychological effects of drugs and alcohol, alcohol and the law, alcohol and drug poisoning, addiction, smoking, vaping, drug classification, supply and possession legislation, emergency situations, first aid, CPR, substances and safety, sources of advice and support	Healthy relationships, Power and control in intimate relationships, risk in intimate relationships, importance of sexual consent, peer on peer abuse, assertiveness skills, sex and the law, pornography and stereotypes, contraception choices, age of consent, family planning, consequences of unprotected sex, STIs, support and advice services	Mental health stigma, triggers, support strategies, managing emotional changes, resilience and how to improve it, reflection on importance of sleep-in relation to mental health, reflection on changes, benefits of relaxation

Year 10 (14-15)	<p>Human rights, societal freedom, understanding safety in UK and beyond, ending relationships safely, stages of grief, loss and bereavement, peer on peer abuse, social media and culture, use of online data, threats to online safety, online identity, assessing and managing risk, the law and social media</p> <p>Risk and emergency contacts Positive and negative relationships</p>	<p>Equality including in the workplace, in society, in relationships</p> <p>Equality Act 2010</p> <p>Vulnerable groups including disability and hidden disability</p> <p>Workplace expectations</p> <p>Rights and responsibilities</p> <p>Power and control in relationships, coercive control</p> <p>Benefits of multi-cultural societies</p> <p>Equity, equality and inequality</p> <p>My health</p>	<p>Impact of physical health in reaching goals, relationships and reaching goals, resilience, work/life balance, connections and impact on mental health, balanced diet, vital organs, blood donation, benefits of helping others, online profile and impact on future goals and employability</p>	<p>Improving health, mental health, sexual health, bloodborne infections, self-examination, diet and long-term health, misuse of prescription drugs, substances and the body, common mental health disorders, positive impact of volunteering, common threats to health including chronic disease, epidemics, misuse of antibiotics</p> <p>Organ donation</p> <p>Stem cells</p>	<p>Sustaining long-term relationships, intimacy, healthy relationship with self-attraction, love, lust</p> <p>Relationship choices, ending relationships safely, consequences of relationships ending e.g., bullying, peer on peer abuse, revenge porn, grief cycle, Impact on family understanding love, fake news</p> <p>Pornography</p>	<p>Impact of societal change on young people, role of media on societal change, reflection on change so far and how to manage it successfully, decision making, sexual identity gender, spectrum of sexuality, stereotypes in romantic relationships, sexual identity and risk, peer on peer abuse, physical and emotional changes, family change, sources of support</p>
Year 11 (15-16)	<p>Becoming an adult.</p> <p>Age limits and the law</p> <p>Relationships and the law, consent, coercive control, peer on peer abuse, domestic abuse, honour-based, violence, arranged and forced marriages</p> <p>The Equality Act 2010</p> <p>The law on internet use and pornography social media concerns, sexting</p> <p>Keeping safe, emergency situations, key advice, first aid, scenarios and consequences</p>		<p>Anxiety, solution focused thinking, sleep, relaxation, Aspiration on; career, finances, budgeting, borrowing, relationships,</p> <p>Skills identification, realistic goals, gambling, financial pressure, debt, dream jobs, skill set, employment, education and training options, long-term relationship dreams and goals, parenting skills and challenges, resilience what to do when things go wrong</p>	<p>Managing anxiety and stress, exam pressure, concentration strategies, work- life balance, sexual health, hygiene, self-examination, STIs, sexual pressure, fertility issues, contraception, consent, peer on peer abuse, pregnancy facts and myths, pregnancy choices including adoption, abortion, bringing up a baby, financial implications, identifying a range of risks including rape and strategies for staying safe</p> <p>Expectations in relationships</p>	<p>Stages of intimate relationships, positive and negative connotations of sex, spectrum of gender and sexuality, LGBT+ rights and protection under the Equality Act, 'coming out' challenges, LGBT+ media stereotypes, peer on peer abuse, power, control and sexual experimentation, forced marriage, honour-based violence, FGM and other abuses, hate crime, sources of support</p>	

Appendix 2 – Parent Form, Withdrawal from sex education with RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			
TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL			
Agreed actions from discussion with parents:			