



Relationship & Sex Education Policy

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Person Responsible for Policy	Headteacher
Governing Committee	LAC
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This policy should be taken and used as part of The Academy of St Nicholas overall strategy and implemented within the context of our Mission Statement and Instrument of Government aims.

As a joint denominational academy, we accept and respect all members of our community as unique children of God, precious in His sight and of infinite worth.

1. AIMS

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our academy are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

RSE at is taught in line with our core values of Respect, Ambition, Compassion and Resilience and developed in line with the advice within The Catholic Education Service and 'Valuing all God's Children', published by The Church of England Education Office.

2. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

As a maintained secondary school we must provide RSE to all pupils as per the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

3. POLICY DEVELOPMENT

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a staff working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

4. DEFINITION

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, 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 is set out as per Appendix I 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.

6. DELIVERY OF RSE

RSE is taught within the Curriculum for Life programme. This is normally delivered by the student's Life tutor. Some biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum.

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 Appendices I and 2.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life, taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 The Governing Board

The governing board will approve the RSE policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

7.2 The Headteacher

The Head of School is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-science 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 pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non- science 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 headteacher. RSE lessons are normally taught by Life tutors and.

7.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

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 three 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 3 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher, or someone they designate, will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

9. TRAINING

Staff training on RSE is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

10. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the Deputy Head through curriculum evaluation and quality assurance procedures which include learning walks and pupil voice.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by Life tutors as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the Deputy Head every three years. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.

11. RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- Anti-bullying
- Child Protection
- PSHE
- Special Education Needs and Disabilities
- Teaching and Learning

Relationships and sex education curriculum map

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS
Year 7	Half term 3	<p><u>Relationships and Society</u> Week 4 – Recognising unhealthy relationships Week 5 – Characteristics of positive relationships Statutory covered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respectful relationships • Friendships
Year 8	Half Term 1 Half Term 3 Half Term 4	<p><u>Identity</u> Week 4 – Sexual Orientation Week 5 – LGBTQ+ Week 6 – Transphobia Week 7 – Gender Identity Statutory covered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respectful relationships <p><u>Relationships and Society</u> Week 2 - Marriage and Civil partnerships Week 3 – Importance of Marriages Week 4 – Roles and responsibilities of a parent Statutory covered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respectful relationships <p><u>Dangerous Society online and offline</u> Week 4 – Child exploitation & online protection Statutory covered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respectful relationships
Year 9	Half Term 3 Half Term 6	<p><u>Relationship and sex education</u> Week 1 – Reproduction health Week 2 – Fertility Week 3 - Pregnancy Week 4 – Alternative options Week 5 – Contraception Week 6 – STI’s Statutory covered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respectful relationships • Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health <p><u>Consent</u> Week 1 – Consent Week 2 – Withdrawing consent Week 3 – Sexual harassment and pressure Week 4 – Alcohol and drugs leading to sexual relationships Week 5 – Sexual violence Week 6 – Rape Week 7 – No means no campaign</p>

		<p>Statutory covered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSE • Consent • Respectful relationships • Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health
Year 10	Half Term 3	<p><u>RSE</u></p> <p>Week 1 – Pornography Week 2 – Sexual exploitation Week 3 – Sexual assault Week 4 – Rape Week 5 – ‘Sexting’ Week 6 – Sending explicit photos</p> <p>Statutory covered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being safe • Respectful relationships • Intimate and sexual relationships
Year 11	Half Term 3	<p><u>Sexual Health</u></p> <p>Week 1 – Peer on Peer Week 2 – Alcohol/drugs and bad choices Week 3 – Respect and relationships Week 4 – Importance of sexual health Week 5 – revisiting contraception</p> <p>Statutory covered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRE • Sexual health • Health and prevention • Being safe • Respectful relationships • Intimate and sexual relationships
Year 12	Half Term 3	<p><u>Relationships and Society</u></p> <p>Week 1 – Contraception Week 2 – Respect for ourselves and our bodies Week 3 – Week 4 – Peer pressure and exit strategies Week 5 – sexual assault</p>
Year 13	Half Term 3	<p><u>RSE</u></p> <p>Week 1 – Safe sex Week 2 – Check ups Week 3 – Toxic Week 4 – Conflict Week 5 – Bereavement</p>

Appendix 2: By the end of secondary school pupils should know.

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there are different types of committed, stable relationships • How these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children • What marriage is, including their legal status e.g., that marriage carries legal rights and protections not available to couples who are cohabiting or who have married, for example, in an unregistered religious ceremony • Why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into • The characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships • The roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting • How to: determine whether other children, adults or sources of information are trustworthy: judge when a family, friend, intimate or other relationship is unsafe (and to recognise this in others' relationships); and, how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed
Respectful relationships, including friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships (in all contexts, including online) including trust, respect, honesty, kindness, generosity, boundaries, privacy, consent and the management of conflict, reconciliation and ending relationships. This includes different (non-sexual) types of relationship • Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships • How stereotypes, in particular stereotypes based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage (e.g., how they might normalise non-consensual behaviour or encourage prejudice) • That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including people in positions of authority and due tolerance of other people's beliefs • About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help • That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control • What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable • The legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and that everyone is unique and equal

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Online and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online • About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online • Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them • What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online • The impact of viewing harmful content • That specifically sexually explicit material e.g., pornography presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners • That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail • How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM, and how these can affect current and future relationships • How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn (in all contexts, including online)

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to recognise the characteristics and positive aspects of healthy one-to-one intimate relationships, which include mutual respect, consent, loyalty, trust, shared interests and outlook, sex and friendship • That all aspects of health can be affected by choices they make in sex and relationships, positively or negatively, e.g., physical, emotional, mental, sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing • The facts about reproductive health, including fertility and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women • That there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressurising others • That they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex • The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available • The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage • That there are choices in relation to pregnancy (with medically and legally accurate, impartial information on all options, including keeping the baby, adoption, abortion and where to get further help) • How the different sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDs, are transmitted, how risk can be reduced through safer sex (including through condom use) and the importance of and facts about testing • About the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment • How the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour • How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment.

