

Ormiston Academies Trust



Ormiston Victory Academy

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Policy type	Statutory Policy
Author	Sarah Bloomer, updated by Dawn Allen
Approved by	Naomi Palmer, December 2019
Release date	December 2019
Next release date	December 2020
Description of changes	<p>1.2 Added 'Develop and understanding of personal health' as one of the key taught topics.</p> <p>2. Added 'transgender' into what we teach within sexual orientation.</p> <p>4. Added 'after a meeting to discuss any concerns' to make it clear that any parents who wish to withdraw their child from RSE should have a meeting with the academy to discuss their concerns before this is done.</p> <p>6. Removed 'zero tolerance'</p> <p>6. Replaced 'discipline' with 'follow the appropriate policy'.</p> <p>6. Added in a reference to peer on peer abuse in the safeguarding policy.</p>

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I. Policy statement and principles

I.1. Legislation

This policy will be compliant with the following guidance:

- DfE 'Relationships and Sex Education Guidance'
- DfE 'Science programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2'
- DfE 'Science programmes of study: key stage 3'
- DfE 'Science programmes of study: key stage 4.'

I.2. Policy aims and principles

At Ormiston Victory Academy, the Governing Body, Principal and staff believe that ensuring a comprehensive, high quality Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum is essential to enabling students to learn the responsibilities inherent in relationships and the importance of family. We support a rights based approach based on mutual respect, trust and informed choices.

Our RSE provision allows for the healthy social and emotional development of pupils, enabling them to develop their own sense of identity and place in the world. Not only does it involve the acquisition of facts and knowledge (which are relevant, topical and age/ability appropriate); it involves the development of values that help pupils to build self-esteem, confidence, awareness and positive attitudes to themselves and others. Enabling pupils to develop contextualised life skills is also crucial in helping them to interact with others, keeping themselves safe and equipping them to make positive life choices.

At Victory, we aim to ensure that our RSE provision recognises and meets the needs of young people of different gender identities, sexual orientations, minority ethnic groups, those with physical or learning disabilities and celebrating diversity.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is defined as:

Learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health.

Care needs to be taken to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of young people based on their home circumstances. RSE is part of the personal, social and health and citizenship education (PSHE) curriculum in our academy.

While we use RSE to inform young people about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows young people to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use RSE as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation. The academy is well aware that the primary role in young people's relationships and sex education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of young people at our academy through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

The sex education and relationship programme is an opportunity for students to:

- Develop and understanding of personal health
- Develop an understanding of sex, sexuality, and relationships
- Develop a range of appropriate personal skills
- The aims will be achieved through the following objectives:
- Develop an understanding of a range of values and moral issues including the importance of family life
- Develop an understanding of the biological facts related to human growth and development, including reproduction

- Develop an understanding of the importance of healthy relationships

We teach relationships and sex education in the context of the academy's aims and values framework. While relationships and sex education in our academy means that we give young people information about sexual behaviour, we do this with an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all our work in the academy. In particular, we teach relationships and sex education in the belief that:

- Relationships and sex education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process
- Young people should be taught to have respect for their own bodies
- Young people should learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity, including teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and sexual activity and the law
- It is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect
- Young people need to develop personal responsibility, self-respect and appropriate decision making skills
- This policy is consistent with all other policies adopted by OAT / the academy and is written in line with current legislation and guidance.

1.3. Complaints

All complaints are dealt with under the OAT Complaints Policy.

Complaints should be made in writing and will follow the OAT complaint procedures and set timescales. The handling of complaints may be delegated to an appropriate person.

1.4. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in the following circumstances:

- changes in legislation and / or government guidance
- as a result of any other significant change or event
- in the event that the policy is determined not to be effective

This policy will be reviewed by the principal in conjunction with the Assistant Principal with responsibility for PSHE on an annual basis. Any changes needed to the policy, including changes to the programme, will be implemented by the principal.

Any changes to the policy will be clearly communicated to all members of staff involved in the relationships and sex education programme.

2. Organisation of the Programme

RSE is coordinated by Alice Cordy, who is responsible for the overall planning, implementation and review of the programme.

RSE will be conducted in accordance with legislation and DfE recommendations and will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis.

The majority of the programme will be delivered through the PSHE and citizenship framework, with aspects taught via the science and physical education curriculum. Students will be taught in mixed ability, mixed gender and single sex groupings.

The relationships and sex education programme is divided into two key stages at secondary level, rather than by year group, in terms of what topics will be taught.

We teach students about:

- The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults
- Respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity only as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship
- The way humans reproduce
- Contraception, safer sex and family planning
- Sexual health and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS
- The importance of family life
- Moral questions including abortion and domestic violence
- Relationship issues including sexual orientation (including transgender/non-binary gender identities)
- Respect for the views of other people
- Sexual abuse
- Where to seek help and advice

External experts may be invited to assist from time to time with the delivery of the relationship and sex education programme, but will be expected to comply with the provisions of this policy.

Relationships and sex education forms part of the curriculum in every year group. The topics taught at each key stage are broken down as follows:

Key Stage 3

Students will learn about anatomy, physiology, sexual intercourse, pregnancy and childbirth.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are taught:

- The detailed process of human reproduction, including the physical and emotional changes that take place during puberty and adolescence.
- About fertility, including the constant fertility of the male and the cyclical fertility of the female.
- The menstrual cycle, including the different stages, and the emotional changes it brings.
- About fertilisation and pregnancy and the different stages involved, including foetal development in the uterus.
- About sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV and AIDS, and how they can be transmitted.
- The diagnosis of, and treatment for, different STIs.
- How high-risk behaviours affect the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.
- About different methods of contraception and the importance of these in preventing STIs and pregnancy.
- How diet and disease may affect sexual health, pregnancy and fertility.
- How drugs, including tobacco and cannabis, may affect sexual health, pregnancy and fertility.
- The importance of the law in regards to the legal age for engaging in sexual activity, and the significance of consent.
- The importance of delaying sexual activity and resisting pressure, as well as how to discuss this with partners.
- About the features of positive and stable relationships, and the importance of these for bringing up children and family life.
- The importance of monogamous and consenting relationships and the effects on physical and emotional wellbeing.
- About the use of 'sexting' and the importance of being aware of what students post online.
- How the media portrays others with particular consideration to body image and self-esteem.
- About different types of relationships such as same-sex and civil partnerships, including different choices relating to children.
- The breakdown of relationships and how to deal with loss, including the impact on emotional wellbeing.
- The roles and responsibilities of parents, carers and children within families.

Key Stage 4

Students will learn about anatomy and physiology in further detail, puberty and adolescence, sexually transmitted infections, and the social and emotional aspects of relationships.

Students in Years 10 and 11 are taught:

- The way in which hormonal control occurs, including the effects of sex hormones.
- About medical hormones such as those relating to fertility.
- How sex is determined in humans.
- About the benefits and risks of lifestyle choices which may affect sexual health.
- About positive characteristics in relationships, and what relationships should offer.
- The importance of being aware of exploitation in relationships and how this is not normal behaviour in a loving relationship.
- The responsibilities of parenthood and the consequences of what students' actions have on sexual activity and parenthood.
- About abortion and how this is dealt with by health professionals, as well as how to discuss this with parents and others.
- The use of medical hormones to control and promote fertility.
- The importance of the law in regards to the legal age for engaging in sexual activity, the significance of consent and the consequences for when the law is not complied with.
- About trans* individuals and acceptance in society.
- About the use of pornography and how this creates distorted images of relationships and sex, as well as placing gender expectations on males and females.
- Where and how to obtain confidential advice, counselling and treatment.
- Delivery of the programme
- Classes may be taught in gender-segregated groups dependent upon the nature of the topic being delivered at the time, and the cultural background of students where it is only appropriate to discuss the body in single gender groups.
- Throughout every year group, appropriate diagrams, videos, books, games, discussion and practical activities will be used to assist learning.
- Inappropriate images, videos, etc. will not be used, and resources will be selected with sensitivity given to the age and cultural background of students.
- Students will be prevented from accessing inappropriate materials on the internet when using such to assist with their learning. The prevention measures taken to ensure this, are outlined in the [E-safety Policy](#), and [Acceptable Terms of Use Agreement](#).
- Teachers will establish what is appropriate for one-to-one and whole-class settings, and alter their teaching of the programme accordingly.
- Teachers will ensure that students' views are listened to and will encourage them to ask questions and engage in discussion. Teachers will answer questions sensitively and honestly.
- The programme will be designed as to focus on boys as much as girls and activities will be planned to ensure both are actively involved, matching their different learning styles.
- Teachers will focus heavily on the importance of marriage and healthy relationships, though sensitivity will always be given as to not stigmatise students on the basis of their home circumstances.
- The academy understands that students with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) are entitled to learn about relationships and sex education, and the programme will be designed to be inclusive of all students.
- Teachers will understand that they may need to be more explicit and adapt their planning of work in order to appropriately deliver the programme to students with SEND.
- At all points of delivery of this programme, parents/carers will be consulted and their views will be valued. What will be taught and how, will be planned in conjunction with parents/carers.
- External experts may be invited to assist from time-to-time with the delivery of the relationships and sex education programme, but will be expected to comply with the provisions of this policy.

2.1. The National Healthy Schools Programme

We are participating in the National Healthy Schools Programme, which promotes health and well-being through good quality health education and PSHE/Citizenship. As participants in this scheme we are committed to:

- Consulting with parents on all matters of health education policy
- Training teachers to teach RSE
- Listening to the views of the young people in our academy regarding RSE
- Linking with local initiatives that support us in providing the RSE teaching programme that we can devise

2.2. Training of staff

All staff members at the academy will undergo training to ensure they are up-to-date with the relationships and sex education programme.

Training of staff will also be scheduled around any updated guidance on the programme and any new developments, such as 'sexting', which may need to be addressed in relation to the programme.

The academy will ensure that teachers receive training on the Social Exclusion Report on Teenage Pregnancy, and the role of an effective relationships and sex education programme in reducing the number of teenage conceptions.

Trained staff will be able to give students advice on where and how to obtain confidential advice, counselling and treatment, as well as advice on emergency contraception and their effectiveness.

3. Confidentiality

Teachers conduct relationships and sex education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. Confidentiality within the classroom is an important component of RSE and teachers will be expected to respect the confidentiality of their students as far as is possible. Students should also respect the content and discussions brought about in RSE and should treat these with confidentiality.

If a student makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in unlawful sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection in line with the academy's child protection and safeguarding policy.

Teachers will not advise students on personal matters but will refer the student to the academy pastoral staff. Any decision about informing parents will be made in consultation with the Principal who will take advice if necessary.

4. Parental Involvement

Ormiston Victory Academy understands that the teaching of some aspects of the programme may be of concern to parents/carers.

Ormiston Victory Academy will ensure that no teachers express their personal views or beliefs when delivering the programme.

Parents/carers will be regularly updated on the content of the programme, through parent's evening and letters.

Ormiston Victory Academy respects the legal right of parents/carers to withdraw their child from all or part of the relationships and sex education programme, except for those statutory parts included in the science national curriculum. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from RSE lessons, they should put in writing which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in and send this to the academy addressed to Alice Cordy.

The academy always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard and will provide appropriate sources of information for parents who wish to withdraw their children. If a parent withdraws their child from topics that are not included in the statutory National Curriculum, after meeting with the academy to discuss their concerns, then the academy will make alternative arrangements for the student.

A list of the statutory topics included in the science national curriculum at the different key stages, can be found in Appendix 2 – Science national curriculum.

5. Equal opportunities

Ormiston Victory Academy understands and abides by The Equality Act 2010, and fully respects the rights of students and staff members, regardless of any protected characteristics that he/she may have.

Ormiston Victory Academy is dedicated to delivering the relationships and sex education programme with sensitivity and respect, avoiding any derogatory or prejudicial terms which may cause offence.

6. Bullying incidents

Any bullying incidents caused as a result of the relationships and sex education programme, such as those relating to sexual orientation, will be dealt with as seriously as other bullying incidents within the academy.

Any occurrence of these incidents should be reported to a member of academy staff, who will then follow the appropriate behaviour policy when the student is on academy premises.

These incidents will be dealt with following the process in our [Anti-bullying Policy](#) or the peer on peer abuse section of the safeguarding policy. The principal will decide whether it is appropriate to notify the police or an anti-social behaviour coordinator in their LA of the action taken against a student.

Appendix I

Letter to parents/carers

Academy name

Address line one

Address line two

Address line three

Postcode

Dear Parent/carer,

RE: Relationships and Sex education at Ormiston Victory Academy

Government guidelines outline that, from the age of 11, it is compulsory for all academies to provide a relationships and sex education programme.

At Ormiston Victory Academy, we believe that it is important to provide our students with a thorough and balanced curriculum, including age-appropriate information about relationships and sex.

The details of what will be taught to the various year groups is detailed in the academy's Relationships and Sex Education Policy, which can be accessed on our academy website www.ormistonvictoryacademy.co.uk or in hard copy via our academy reception.

Though academies must provide relationship and sex education for students from the age of 11, up until the age of 19, only aspects of the science national curriculum are compulsory for students to learn. Therefore as parents/carers, you are entitled to request that your child be removed from relationships and sex education lessons.

Such requests should be submitted to myself, the principal, who will discuss this with you and your child's teacher and determine an appropriate substitute for these lessons. In most instances, children will be provided with self-directed reading or exercises which they can complete under the supervision of a trainee teacher.

If you have any concerns or queries about your child's participation in these lessons, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or your child's class teacher to discuss these.

Yours faithfully,

Naomi Palmer
Principal

Appendix 2

Science national curriculum

In accordance with the DfE's 'Relationships and Sex Education Guidance', there are certain aspects of relationships and sex education which are compulsory for students to learn as they progress through the key stages.

Key stage	Students must be taught:
Key stage 1	<p>That animals, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.</p> <p>To recognise and compare the main external parts of the bodies of humans.</p> <p>That humans and animals can produce offspring, and they grow into adults.</p> <p>To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others.</p> <p>To treat others with sensitivity.</p>
Key stage 2	<p>That nutrition, growth and reproduction are common life processes for humans and other animals.</p> <p>About the main stages of the human life cycle.</p>
Key stage 3	<p>That fertilisation in humans is the fusion between the egg and sperm.</p> <p>About the physical and emotional changes that take place during adolescence.</p> <p>How the foetus grows and develops.</p> <p>How the growth and reproduction of bacteria and viruses can affect health.</p>
Key stage 4	<p>The way in which hormonal control occurs, including the effects of sex hormones.</p> <p>The medical uses of some hormones, including the control of fertility.</p> <p>The defence mechanisms of the body.</p> <p>How sex is determined in humans.</p>