



L.E.A.D. Academy Trust

Lead • Empower • Achieve • Drive

# **Relationships, Health and Sex Education (R.S.H.E) Policy**

## **Policy Statement**

### **Introduction**

This statement sets out the legal framework, the definitions and our policy expectations.

L.E.A.D. Academy Trust requires this policy to be implemented by all its member academies, adapted to meet the needs of individual contexts and cohorts.

The L.E.A.D. ethos is that effective personal development is crucial to the rounded education provided to our pupils. Every child should have access to effective Health, Sex and Relationship Education.

L.E.A.D. Academy Trust defines the policy expectation, but the responsibility for implementation of the policy rests with the Head teacher of each academy.

This policy outlines the commitment to provide effective Relationships, Sex and Health Education for all pupils in support of that offered by parents, who are the first educators of their children in this area. It has been written with regard to the DfE Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSHE) and Health Education guidance 2019 and statutory requirements.

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 make Relationships and Health Education compulsory for children receiving primary education.

RSHE teaching contributes to our statutory duty to safeguard children and prepare them for the responsibilities and experiences of adult life. RSHE will be taught in an age-appropriate manner throughout each Academy within the Trust.

### **Legal Framework**

Updated guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

Academies' Funding Agreements require academies to have regard to [DfE's statutory guidance on sex and relationship education](#)

Duty to promote well-being (Children Act 2004)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/contents>

*Please note: This policy should be read in conjunction with our policies on Safeguarding & Child Protection, Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) and Equality.*

## **Definition**

Sex and Relationship Education is committed to supporting all children to grow up happy, healthy and safe, and to provide them with the knowledge they need to manage the opportunities and challenges of modern Britain. Through RSHE children learn about relationships, diversity, respect, healthy lifestyles, safety, the body and how it changes, reproduction and birth in a sensitive and age-appropriate way. This is aimed at building the foundation of skills and knowledge that will be developed further at a secondary level. Our key aim in providing RSHE is to safeguard our pupils. Pupil will learn key knowledge and skills to help keep them safe and prepare them for adult life.

Sex Education for primary age pupils is not compulsory. However, at L.E.A.D. Academy Trust, all academies should ensure that any sex education programme designed and implemented, is age appropriate and is tailored to the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils, and should be aligned with the model policies issued by the relevant local authority. The policy will equally be outlined and shared with the relevant stakeholders and parents.

The statutory subject of Health Education includes coverage of: mental wellbeing; internet safety and harms; physical health and fitness; healthy eating; drugs, alcohol and tobacco; health and prevention; basic first aid; and, changing adolescent body (ie. puberty education)

## **Key Objectives**

The key objectives of the RSHE programme should be to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of positive and healthy relationships and the importance of commitment
- Enable children to gain the skills and understanding to support the development of healthy bodies and minds
- Develop pupils' skills around assessing risk and keeping safe
- Enable pupils to recognise and manage their emotions effectively
- Support Pupils to effectively manage their health and wellbeing
- Make pupils aware of their rights especially in relation to their bodies
- Enable the development of social and relationship skills and protective behaviours
- Prepare pupils for the physical and emotional changes of puberty
- Develop understanding of reproduction and birth within the context of loving and caring relationships
- Explore a range of attitudes, values and faith perspectives around aspects of relationships and sex
- Support pupils to use the internet safely and to recognise the benefits and risks that it brings
- Provide pupils with the knowledge and skills to access appropriate support

The RSHE programme is based on the needs of pupils, in order to support learning outcomes appropriate to their age, ability and level of maturity. Pupils will be helped to appreciate difference and to respect themselves and others.

**The Curriculum:**

RSHE will be taught in each year group throughout the Academy. The curriculum we deliver is age-appropriate and progressive, building the children’s knowledge, understanding and skills year on year. RSHE will be delivered, and parents/carers will be informed of what will be covered annually.

The curriculum will ensure coverage of the following core elements:

**1. Knowledge and Understanding**

**2. Personal and Social Skills**

**3. Attitudes and Values**

**Aspects of Coverage/ Concepts**

*The following aspects and concepts will be covered within the RSHE guidance published in June 2019.*

Concepts within the Curriculum	
Mental wellbeing	Physical health & fitness
Sexual education	Being safe
Changing adolescent body	Health & prevention
Basic first aid	Internet safety & harms
Drugs alcohol & tobacco	Healthy eating
Respectful relationships	Families (& people who care for me)
Online relationships	Caring friendships

As part of our long term planning, our PSHE teaching is broken up into different topics.

- In Autumn 1 term our topic is ‘Me and my Relationships’ which includes feelings, emotions, conflict resolution and friendships.
- In Autumn 2 term our topic is ‘Valuing Difference’ which includes a focus on British Values.

- In Spring 1 our topic is 'Keeping Safe' which includes aspects of relationships education, safe internet use and for KS2 includes teaching on drugs.
- In Spring 2 our topic is 'Rights and Respect' which includes living in the wider world, environment and money,
- In Summer 1 our topic is 'Being my best' which includes keeping healthy, growth mind-set, goal setting and achievement.
- In Summer 2 our topic is 'Growing and Changing' which includes RSE-related issues.

Specifically related to RSE, in each Year Group (Seedlings-Year 6) the children discuss key safeguarding issues linked personal space and privacy. The school utilises the NSPCC resources to promote children's awareness of these issues in an age appropriate manner. The teachers sensitively ensure children are aware and understand of the boundaries that should exist linked to the private areas of their body.

All years from 2 year olds (Seedlings) – Year 6 children also learn about:

- Developing the skills to have positive relationships with friends and family
- An understanding that families/relationships set-ups.
- Exercise and personal hygiene

In addition to this, Year 5 and 6 children learn about:

- Developing the skills to be effective in relationships
- The different types of relationship, including marriage and those between friends and families. Children are made aware that different family set-ups exist (including homosexual relationships)
- How the body changes during puberty

And Year 6 specifically look at:

- How a baby is conceived and born.

We place a particular emphasis on RSE in Year 5 and 6, as many children experience puberty at this age. We teach the children about the parts of the body and how they work. We also explain what will happen to their bodies during puberty. We encourage the children to ask for help if they need it and there are opportunities for single sex question sessions. Teachers do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach these with due regard for the emotional development of the children. Our program is a graduated, age appropriate programme which will be delivered by the school staff with support and advice from health professionals. Both boys and Girls may be taught separately however they receive the same input and understand the changes that occur in their own gender as well as that of the opposite sex.

Same sex relationships are discussed at a level appropriate to the age of the children.

Children are reminded that 'loving relationships' can be between a man and a woman or

people of the same sex. Teachers again use their own discretion in these situations when responding to children's questioning. Children are taught to respect the life choices of others (including their sexuality). Homophobic bullying is discussed at a level appropriate to the age of the children.

### **Sex Education**

In addition to Relationships and Health Education, sex education is taught in year 6. Parents are able to withdraw their child from this learning if they choose to (see 'Parents' section below).

### **Implementation:**

At Sycamore Academy, our main PSHE curriculum including RSE is provided by Coram Life Education, SCARF. This programme, developed by teachers, is centred on a values-based and 'Growth Mind-set' approach. SCARF's online resources support the promotion of positive behaviour, mental health, wellbeing, resilience and achievement. SCARF provides a whole-school approach from Foundation 1 to Year 6 to build essential foundations which are crucial for children to achieve their best, academically and socially. Planning for these lessons are provided by SCARF and the lesson plans are organised around the PSHE Association's Programmes of Study Learning Opportunities.

Since RSHE incorporates the development of self-esteem and relationships, pupils' learning does not just take place through the taught curriculum but through all aspects of school life, including the playground. It is important then that all staff understand they have a responsibility to implement this policy and promote the aims of the Academy at any time they are dealing with children.

### **Teaching and Learning**

The personal beliefs and attitudes of teachers will not influence the teaching of RSHE. The approach to the teaching of this subject matter is rooted in education, rather than beliefs or emotion. A balanced and non-judgmental approach will therefore be taken. Teachers, and all those contributing to RSHE will work to the agreed values within this policy.

Within RSHE pupils will develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about relationships, keeping safe, health, puberty and sex. To achieve this, a number of teaching strategies may be used, including:

- Establishing ground rules with pupils
- Dealing with children's questions in an appropriate manner
- Using discussion and the appropriate materials
- Encouraging reflection
- Use strategies for pupils who may not wish to raise suggestions in front of others e.g. a question (ballot style) box.

## **Equality Statement**

At Sycamore academy we are committed to applying the equality duty. It is the responsibility of all staff, leaders and governors to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between people.

RSHE will be accessible to all. Through the delivery of RSHE, teachers will explore gender stereotypes and how they may limit a person's potential and ensure that people of all genders receive information that is relevant to their needs.

There are many different faith and cultural perspectives on aspects of RSHE. We aim to deliver RSHE in a factual, non-judgmental way, ensuring that teachers do not promote one faith or cultural viewpoint, but rather provide a balanced approach that acknowledges the wealth of views and opinions of our community and teaches tolerance.

Parents and carers are key partners in RSHE and are best placed to support their children to understand how their learning at the Academy fits with their family's faith, beliefs and values. To support this process we will ensure that parents are made aware of what will be taught and when.

We will use a range of materials and resources that reflect the diversity of the Academy population and encourage acceptance and tolerance. We want every child and family to feel included, respected and valued.

A range of different families and relationships will be explored within RSHE. All children whatever their identity, developing identity, or family background need to feel that RSHE is relevant to them and sensitive to their needs. Resources used will demonstrate awareness of both the Academy community and wider society where possible.

## **SEND**

Teachers will plan in different ways and use a variety of teaching strategies to meet the needs of individuals. For some children, particularly those with special educational needs and disabilities, a tailored approach may be necessary to ensure learning outcomes are met – this will be discussed with parents/carers and based upon the individual needs of the pupil, prior to the session.

## **Vulnerable Pupils**

Some pupils may have experienced adverse childhood experiences that may impact on their ability to engage with RSHE in a variety of ways. Care will be taken to ensure that, where this is the case, parents/carers are consulted about the most appropriate way for the pupil to access the curriculum.

## **Safe Learning in RSHE**

It is important that all pupils feel safe and able to participate in RSHE lessons. To support the involvement of all pupils, teachers will use a range of teaching strategies and ensure that pupils are aware of the expectations before beginning each session.

As with any topic, pupils will ask questions during RSHE to further their understanding. Due to the sensitive nature of the topic, teachers will employ strategies to ensure that questions are asked and answered in a factual, balanced and age-appropriate way.

When pupils can write independently, pupils may be introduced to the 'question box', into which they can place their written questions. This allows the teacher the opportunity to group questions into themes and filter any that may need answering on an individual basis or, in some cases, referred to parents. All staff will be mindful of their safeguarding role and will follow the relevant Academy procedures if a question raises concerns of this nature.

Teachers will use the following strategies to deal with unexpected questions:

- If a question is personal, the teacher will remind pupils of the rules and expectations.
- If the teacher doesn't know the answer to a question, the teacher will acknowledge this and will research the question and provide an appropriate answer later.
- If the question is too explicit, is outside set parameters, is inappropriate in a whole class setting or raises concerns about sexual abuse, the teacher will attend to it on an individual basis which may involve informing parents.

Sometimes pupils may ask questions about issues that are not part of the planned programme, this could show that the taught curriculum is not meeting their needs. This will be fed back to the leader as part of the evaluation and monitoring process.

## **External speakers**

External speakers may be used to enhance the delivery of RSHE. All external speakers deliver in line with our RSHE policy and safeguarding procedures.

- be suitably qualified to deliver RSHE sessions
- be aware of the school policy on RSHE and work within this
- be supervised by a member of staff at all times when on school premises
- be familiar with the Safeguarding Policy and alert the teacher to any safeguarding concerns
- understand their contribution they make to the broader RSHE programme
- be suitably vetted prior to being booked

Coram Life Education provide interactive workshops. These workshops are led by specialist educators, use a best-practice, three-strand approach, addressing children's knowledge, skills, attitudes and values. All workshops support the DfE statutory requirements for RSHE



and are aligned with the National Curriculum. These workshops happen once a year in Summer term.

We also have workshops from Loudmouth Education. Their programme uses a fun and informative drama plus discussion workshop to help children and young people to understand the transition to secondary school and puberty (including the menstrual cycle), reassuring them that it is normal/not something to worry about and advise them where to go for support. These workshops happen once every two years for Years 5 and 6.

### **Staff Training**

All staff delivering RSHE will take part in training and be familiar with this policy. If a staff member has additional learning and development needs, these will be supported either through mentoring from a more experienced staff member in the Academy, team-teaching, observations, or attendance at an internal or external training event.

### **Assessment and Review**

Identifying the impact of the RSE provision is essential to maintaining high standards and identifying ongoing areas of development. The PSHE/RSE lead works closely with the senior leadership team in implementing the school improvement plan. The PSHE/RSE lead monitors the impact of teaching and learning through:

- Learning walks
- Folder monitoring
- Evidence samples
- Moderation

### **The Role of Parents**

RSHE is a partnership between the Academy and parents/carers. We recognise that in RSHE, parents and carers play a core role and we therefore welcome their engagement with our programme. It is important that RSHE delivered within the Academy is explored in more detail within the context of individual families. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our Academy through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we:

- Inform parents routinely about the Academy's RSHE policy and practice (prospectus/letters/emails/ website)
- The curriculum content and organisation is shared and explained (-knowledge organisers/ explanation of what is covered and when)
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the RSHE of their child
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for RSHE in the Academy

- Conduct consultation on an annual basis about any needs in relation to our RSHE programme and policy

Any parents wanting more information about our RSHE curriculum can contact their child's class teacher.

### **Right to withdraw from Sex Education**

Whilst we always try to work with parents to explore their views, we also accept that parents can exercise their right to withdraw their child from the sex education elements of our programme (other than that which comes within the science curriculum). There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education. Any parent wishing to exercise this right should initially contact the Head teacher to discuss the matter.

If a pupil is withdrawn from an aspect of Sex Education, alternative arrangements will be put in place. This provision and the nature of this learning will be negotiated on an individual basis, dependent on the needs of the pupil.

### **Resources**

As with any other subjects, the breadth of the RSHE curriculum necessitates the use of a wide variety of age-appropriate resources. Teachers select resources that support the learning outcomes for the year group they are teaching. Parents are welcome to review these resources and familiarise themselves with anything which is used. If any Parents would like to see these resources they can do so by contacting their child's class teacher. If you would like to discuss any of the resources in more detail please contact Mr Worley and Mrs Windley-Blyth.

### **Confidentiality, Safeguarding and Child Protection**

Everyone involved in RSHE will be clear about the boundaries of their legal and professional roles and responsibilities. Teachers will discuss confidentiality with pupils, making it clear that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. Pupils will be informed that if confidentiality has to be broken, due to safeguarding concerns, they will be informed first and then supported as appropriate.

Teachers will be aware that effective RSHE, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable, can lead to disclosure of a child protection issue. Everyone involved in RSHE will be alert to signs of abuse and report concerns or suspicions to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as outlined in the safeguarding policy. Any disclosure of sexual activity from a primary age child would raise immediate child protection concerns that would be dealt with in a sensitive manner in line with local safeguarding procedures.

## **Menstrual Wellbeing**

Some pupils will begin menstruation whilst still in primary education. To support pupils who are menstruating, we have in place the following:

- Sanitary disposal units are available in the Year 5 female toilets and the Year 6 toilets.
- Pupils can access sanitary products if they need to from adults in Year 6.
- For those experiencing period poverty free sanitary protection can be accessed from the school office.

When a pupil starts menstruating in the Academy, we will support them on-site and inform parents. Our RSHE programme covers basic information about menstruation in year 5 and year 6. If your child has difficulties managing their periods at the Academy please contact your child's class teacher for support.

## **The Role of the Head Teacher**

It is the responsibility of the Head teacher to ensure:

- That parents and staff are informed about the academy's RSHE policy.
- The policy is implemented effectively.
- That members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.
- This policy is monitored on a regular basis and reports are made to governors on the effectiveness of the policy.

## **Links to other Policies**

**It is important to acknowledge that this policy does not remain in isolation and is used in conjunction with the following Policies:**

- *Anti-bullying*
- *Healthy eating*
- *Religious Education*
- *Science*
- *Safeguarding*
- *Equality*
- *Health and Safety*
- *SMSC*
- *British Values*
- *Curriculum*
- *Complaints*

### **Concerns/ Complaints**

Any concerns regarding this policy should be addressed informally in the first instance by approaching your child's class teacher. If concerns remain, then they should be addressed via the complaints procedure which is available on the academy website.

Date and Co-ordinator/Lead

This policy was updated by the PSHE lead.

Reviewed – January 2024 (A. Windley-Blyth)