



SEX AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

VERSION 2

07/09/2021

Sex and Healthy Relationships Education

Waveney Valley Academies Trust has a statutory duty to teach human growth and reproduction as set out in the national curriculum for science.

We believe sex and healthy relationships education is best 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’. (Sex Education and Relationship Education Guidance)

Within Waveney Valley Academies Trust, sex and healthy relationships is part of the personal, social, health and economic education curriculum (PSHEE). Through sex and healthy relationships education, we inform students about sexual issues but in the context of morality and individual responsibility. This allows students to ask and explore moral questions. Under no circumstance do we use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

We aim to work closely with parents and carers to create an ethos that will ensure all students receive appropriate, accurate and honest answers to their questions about sex and healthy relationships.

We place a high priority on sex and healthy relationships education to prepare students to live in a diverse society that accepts gender equality as the norm. They need to be taught about the harm of domestic abuse and physical or sexual violence.

We believe it is essential that this policy clearly identifies and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the procedures and arrangements that is connected with this policy.

Aims

- To offer all students a planned programme of education about human development, relationships, sexuality and family life which is developmental and appropriate to the age and maturity of the student
- To teach sexuality within a moral framework emphasising stable relationships and family life
- To encourage students to develop a positive attitude to all body functions
- To help students understand that they have rights over their bodies
- To help students recognise peer social pressure and boost self esteem
- To promote healthy relationships in conjunction with a healthy lifestyle
- To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation connected to this policy

Responsibilities

The **Trust Board** has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all academy personnel and stakeholders are aware of and comply with this policy

- responsibility for ensuring that the academy complies with all equalities legislation
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy

The **Headteachers** will:

- appoint a member of staff to be responsible for PSHEE
- ensure all academy personnel, students and parents are aware of and comply with this policy
- create an ethos where students understand the importance of equality and respect the rights of others
- endorse a curriculum that teaches students to know about their rights and to have positive attitudes to respecting the rights of others
- inform parents of their right of withdrawing their child from all or part of the academy's sex and healthy relationships programme if they so wish

The **member of staff responsible for PSHEE** will:

- make effective use of relevant research and information
- keep up to date with new developments and resources
- undertake risk assessments when required

Academy personnel will:

- comply with all aspects of this policy
- use a variety of teaching methods and resources to deliver the sex and healthy relationships programme
- endeavour to answer students' questions about matters relating to sexual issues honestly and in a way that is appropriate to the student's individual developmental needs
- teach students about gender equality
- encourage students to form and express their own views

All **parents** should:

- acknowledge that they have a primary role in their child's sex and healthy relationships programme
- be fully aware of the academy's sex and healthy relationships policy
- ask any pertinent questions regarding their child's sex education
- be aware of their right of withdrawing their child from all or part of the sex and healthy relationships programme

Sex Education Programme

We carry out the main sex and healthy relationships teaching in our Personal, Social, Health and Economics Education (PSHEE) curriculum.

We also teach some sex education through other subject areas (for example, science and PE), where we feel that they contribute significantly to a student's knowledge and understanding of their own body, and how it is changing and developing.

Confidentiality

The teaching staff will endeavour to respect a student's confidence, unless we consider the student to be at risk. Where confidentiality has to be breached, reasons will be given. Academy personnel cannot promise a student that they will 'keep a secret'.

Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any student and it helps to promote equality within the Trust.

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