

We are an ambitious and inclusive Trust of schools  
strengthening communities through excellent education.



# **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy – Secondary**

Responsibility for approval: Senior Exec  
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## 1.0 Policy Statement

1.1 We are an ambitious and inclusive Trust of schools, strengthening our communities through excellent education. We are committed to providing excellent education for every child, every day, and aim to strengthen and work with our communities to continue to improve accessibility in our schools

## 2.0 Aims

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

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

## 3.0 Definition

3.1 For the purpose of this document:

- Members, Trustees/Directors and Governors are referred to as Trustees;
- The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust is referred to as The Trust and refers to all schools or academies within the Trust;
- School or Academy refers to any one of the schools or academies within the Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust;
- Staff refers to all staff working at any one of the schools within the Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust;
- Students refers to all students being educated or on site at any one of the schools within the Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust.

## 4.0 Policy development

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

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

## 5.0 What is Relationship and Sex Education

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.
- 5.3 RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

## 6.0 Legal framework

- 6.1 The legal framework is set out in statutory guidance from the Department for Education issued under Section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and section 403 of the Education Act 1996.
- 6.2 Schools must have regard to the statutory guidance, and where they depart from those parts of the guidance which state that they should (or should not) do something they will need to have good reasons for doing so.
- 6.3 The statutory guidance applies to
  - 6.3.1 Relationships Education (for Primary education)
  - 6.3.2 Relationships and Sex Education (for Secondary Education)
- 6.4 The policy must also be applied within the framework of other relevant legislation including the Equality Act 2010.

## 7.0 Principles and values

- 7.1 The Trust believes that RSE should:
  - 7.1.1 Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life;
  - 7.1.2 Be an entitlement for all young people;
  - 7.1.3 Encourage every student to contribute to make our community and aims to support each individual as they grow and learn;
- 7.2 Be set within this wider school context and supports family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness. Family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. nuclear family. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of different approaches;
  - 7.2.1 Encourage students and teachers to share and respect each other's views. We are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure. The important values are love, respect and care for each other;
  - 7.2.2 Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment;
  - 7.2.3 Recognise that parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents and students, consulting them about the content of programmes;
  - 7.2.4 Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with health professionals, social workers, peer educators and other mentors or advisers;

## 8.0 Relationships & sex education

8.1 Relationships and Sex education covers three main elements:

### 8.1.1 Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral choices;
- learning the value of family life, stable and loving relationships, and marriage;
- learning about the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- challenging myths, misconceptions and false assumptions about normal behaviour.

### 8.1.2 Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict;
- empower students with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances (both as exploited or exploiter)

### 8.1.3 Knowledge and Understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- learning about contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice, contraception and support services;
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay;
- the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

## 9.0 Organisation and Content

9.1 Schools within the Trust specifically deliver Relationships and Sex Education through their PSHE Programme, RE and Science lessons at KS3, and KS4.

9.2 Much of the Relationship and Sex Education takes place within PSHE and Science lessons. The Curriculum will have support from professionals where appropriate.

9.3 RSE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included in Science. The Science National Curriculum is delivered by staff in the science department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction, although the importance of relationships is not forgotten.

9.4 Any RSE lesson may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that

answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.

9.5 More expert or specialist teachers support PSHE teachers who are uncomfortable with teaching certain aspects of the curriculum. Support is offered from the PSHE coordinator who will help with planning or delivery lessons if required. Assessment is carried out at the end of every module and involves teacher, pupil and peer assessment of knowledge and understanding, interpersonal skills, and attitudes.

9.6 See appendix for curriculum map

## 10.0 Inclusion

10.1 Ethnic and Cultural Groups - We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups. For some young people it is not culturally appropriate for them to be taught particular items in mixed groups. We will respond to parental requests and concerns.

10.2 Students with Special Needs - We will ensure that all young people receive relationships and sex education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our students, taking specialist advice where necessary.

10.3 Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation - We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality need to feel that relationships and sex education is relevant to them.

10.4 Regard will be given to ensure all protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation) are recognised as part of the delivery of RSE within school.

## 11.0 Roles and responsibilities

11.1 Trustees

The trustees will approve the RSE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

11.2 The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from [non-statutory/non-science] components of RSE (see section 11).

11.3 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-statutory/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.

#### 11.4 Pupils

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

### 12.0 Roles and responsibilities

12.1 Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the [non-statutory/non-science] components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 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 and addressed to the headteacher.

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

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

### 13.0 Confidentiality, Controversial and Sensitive Issues

13.1 Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality and are required to report all disclosures. In a case where a teacher learns from an under 16-year-old that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse:

- The young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to parent/carer and if necessary to seek medical advice.
- Child protection issues will be considered, and referred if necessary to the teacher responsible for Child Protection under the school's procedures.
- The young person will be properly counselled about contraception, including precise information about where young people can access contraception and advice services.

13.2 In any case where child protection procedures are followed, the teacher will ensure that the young person understands that they cannot ever promise confidentiality.

13.3 Health professionals in school are bound by their codes of conduct in a one-to-one situation with an individual student, but in a classroom situation they must follow the school's confidentiality policy.

### 14.0 Training

14.1 Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

14.2 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.

### 15.0 Monitoring arrangements

15.1 The delivery of RSE is monitored by Nathan Wright, PSHE lead and Lisa Lowe Faculty leader of RPE through: Faculty level and Tutor programme/Lesson42 processes. These include learning walks, student voice and staff voice.

15.2 Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

15.3 This policy will be reviewed by Deputy Headteacher Curriculum and Standards, annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by Trustees.

## 16.0 Policy circulation

- 16.1 This Policy will be published on the Trust’s website and included in the Trust’s Policy Monitoring Schedule
- 16.2 This Policy will be circulated to every Member, Trustee/Director, Governor and Senior Employee by sending an email to the link on the Trust’s website on an annual basis and when each new Member, Trustee/Director, Governor and Senior Employee joins the Trust.
- 16.3 The Trustees, in consultation with the Local Governing Bodies, are responsible for overseeing, reviewing and organising the revision of the Relationships and Sex Education Policy.

## 17.0 Appendix

- 17.1 Appendix 1: Curriculum Map

### ECC Relationships and sex education curriculum map

YEAR GROUP	UNIT	TOPIC/THEME LEARNING OUTCOME
Year 7	Friendships and Bullying (1)	Bullying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is it?</li> <li>- Motives and reasons</li> <li>- Cyber-bullying and online footprint</li> <li>- Anti—bullying</li> <li>- Healthy friendships</li> <li>- Respect</li> <li>- Discriminatory Language</li> </ul>
Year 7	Growing Up	The Changing Body (KS2 Recap) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Puberty</li> <li>- Menstruation</li> </ul>
Year 8	Relationships and Diversity	Identity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gender Identity</li> <li>- Sexual Orientation</li> </ul> Understanding Relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relationship Issues</li> </ul> Keeping Safe and Vigilant in Relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consent</li> <li>- Sexting</li> <li>- Sexual Exploitation</li> <li>- Online Grooming and Keeping Safe</li> <li>- Honour-Based Violence</li> <li>- Female Genital Mutilation</li> </ul>

YEAR GROUP	UNIT	TOPIC/THEME LEARNING OUTCOME
Year 9	Understanding Relationships	<p>Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Characteristics of a Healthy Relationship</li> <li>- The Positive Effects and Benefits of a Healthy Relationship</li> <li>- Reflection and Evaluation of Relationships</li> <li>- Identifying Unhealthy Behaviour in Relationships</li> <li>- Control, Coercion and Abuse.</li> </ul>
Year 9	Sex Education (1)	<p>Responsible Sexual Behaviour - Preliminary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Judging Readiness for Sex</li> <li>- Sexual Health and STIs</li> <li>- Contraception</li> </ul> <p>Dangerous and Criminal Sexual Behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sexual Harassment</li> <li>- Sexual Violence</li> </ul>
Year 10	Respect in Relationships	<p>Diversity in Healthy Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Avoiding Micro-aggressions</li> <li>- Respecting Protected Characteristics</li> </ul> <p>Gender Issues in Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equality in Relationships</li> <li>- The Manosphere and Misogyny</li> </ul>
Year 10	Friendships and Bullying (2)	<p>Crossing the Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Line Between Banter and Bullying</li> <li>- Cyber-Bullying and Consequences (Mental Health Focus)</li> </ul>

YEAR GROUP	UNIT	TOPIC/THEME LEARNING OUTCOME
Year 10	Sex Education (2)	<p>Evolving Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Healthy Relationships (Recap)</li> <li>- The Role and Purpose of Sex</li> </ul> <p>Sexual Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Healthy Sexual Relationships</li> <li>- Sexual Consent and the Law</li> <li>- Managing Sexual Pressures</li> <li>- Chemical Influences and Safety</li> <li>- STIs (Development)</li> <li>- Contraception (Development)</li> </ul> <p>Sex and the Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understanding Pornography and the Sex Industry</li> <li>- Media Desensitisation</li> </ul> <p>Managing Pregnancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fertility</li> <li>- Understanding Pregnancy</li> <li>- Abortion – Choices and Legal Issues</li> </ul>