

RSE Policy - Alec Reed Academy

Introduction

Relationship and Sex education provides a forum to provide pupils with life-skills that will enable them to make informed decisions and protect themselves against harmful and exploitative situations. Relationship and Sex Education is a tool to safeguard children. Relationship and Sex Education is an important part of a pupil's education at Alec Reed Academy and encourages pupils to consider ideas of equality between individuals and groups. It involves an exploration of human and social diversity, and a fostering of self-worth whilst recognising, accepting and respecting differences.

Pupils are taught appropriate to their age and capability and develop their understanding of relationships, sexual development, sexual consent and their human rights with regard to physical harm and sexual exploitation. Pupils should develop their understanding of how to keep themselves healthy. They should be encouraged to make informed choices about healthy eating, fitness and their emotional and mental well-being. They should develop an age-appropriate understanding of healthy relationships and be confident in staying safe from abuse and exploitation.

Objectives

Pupils should

- Develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their judgements, decisions and behaviour.
- Understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.
- Have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge the kind of relationships they want.
- Communicate effectively.
- Be aware of their sexuality and understand differences in human sexuality (e.g. heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and trans-gender).
- Understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity and the reasons for having protected sex.
- Have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves offline and online and be aware of the implication of sexting and online grooming
- Have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.
- Avoid being exploited or exploiting others and being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.

- Access confidential sexual health advice, support and if necessary treatment.
- Know how the law applies to sexual relationships.
- Understand what consent means and factors that influence one's ability to consent

Delivery of RSE

Relationship and sex education at ARA is delivered through PSHCE lessons, Science and Religious education lessons and through one-day programmes such as Chelsea's Choice. In delivering RSE teachers take into account local health and social data and the full range of pupils' needs, interests and aspirations. The programme is designed to ensure continuity and progression in pupils' learning across the key stages. The RSE content in PSHCE is based upon the Ealing Scheme of Work for RSE and ARA has been a partner in the development of this document. RSE is delivered in mixed gender groups other than when it is deemed more appropriate for topics to be covered in single sex groups.

Monitoring and assessment

The monitoring of teaching and learning in PSHE is carried out through lesson observations, work scrutiny, subject reviews, self-evaluation and improvement planning. The PSHCE department is a full member of the national PSHE Association and works together with the Ealing Schools Health Advisor to ensure we are reflecting current best practice. The Academy participates each year in the Ealing Health Related Behaviour Survey and uses the results of the survey to identify gaps in provision or key areas to focus on.

Assessment of RSE within the Academy focuses on:

- Knowledge and understanding gained.
- Skills learnt and developed.
- Attitudes and values explored.
- Responses offered by pupils.
- Short questionnaires
- Asking children about the timing of the RSE – (was it early enough?)
- Peer assessment
- Self assessment

Specific Issues within RSE

ARA tries to ensure that both confidentiality and child protection are paramount in our priorities when delivering RSE. It is important that

- there should be clear ground rules in lessons
- pupils should be made aware of the schools' confidentiality policy and how it works in practice.
- both teachers and pupils should know that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality.
- child protection procedures should be followed if there is any possibility of abuse.
- pupils should be directed to appropriate support services

Although the legal age of consent is 16 years old, there are young people who are sexually active under the age of 16. If it is discovered that a pupil is sexually active then that information will be passed on to the Assistant Principal in charge of Child Protection . With respect to child abuse and protection procedures, staff will follow the school's child protection policy. All RSE issues are taught without bias. Topics are presented using a variety of views and beliefs so that pupils are able to form their own, informed opinions but also respect others that may have a different opinion.

Both formal and informal RSE questions arising from pupils are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil(s) concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. Individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Child Protection Lead if they are concerned. In discussions it is important that

- No one (teacher or pupil) will have to answer a personal question
- No one will be forced to take part in a discussion
- Only correct/agreed names for body parts will be used
- Meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way
- Teachers may use their discretion in responding to questions and may say (for example):
 - The appropriate person to answer that question is the parent
 - The question can be discussed one to one after class
 - The topic will be covered at a later stage in their RSE

Child Withdrawal Procedure

Relationship and Sex Education is to be taught in all year groups. If a parent/ guardian feels it necessary to withdraw their child, they should arrange to come to school and discuss their concerns with the head teacher or PSHE coordinator. In the event of a child being withdrawn from a lesson, that child must stay in school and will be assigned to another class until that specific lesson is over

Pupils may be provided with information about Contraception, Abortion, STIS (including HIV/AIDS) and Sexual Health Services in line with the DoE's guidance on RSE (2000) .Particular care will be exercised in relation to contraceptive advice to pupils under 16, for whom sexual intercourse is unlawful. A teacher approached by an individual pupil for specific advice on contraception, abortion and/ or other aspects of sexual behaviour, will wherever possible, encourage the pupil to seek advice from his/her parents and, if appropriate, from the relevant health service professional.

A key emphasis in RSE lessons will always be placed on developing pupil understanding of key areas surrounding healthy relationships, boundaries, inappropriate behaviour and touch consent and risk minimisation, so that young people leave school resilient to factors that lead to unhealthy relationships and situations.