

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy

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Section 1 - Introduction

Park Vale Academy is aware that children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

As part of the students' education at Park Vale Academy, we teach a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme through tutor groups. PSHE is the subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential.

From September 2020 we also have a mandatory requirement to teach Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). Much of what is included in the new RSHE requirements is already covered as part of our current PSHE provision, however the provision and policy is being updated based on the new requirements.

Section 2 - The aims of Relationships, Sex and Health Education

The aim of this policy is to communicate to staff, governors, parents/carers, visitors and students the manner in which RSHE will be delivered and supported at Park Vale Academy.

The aim of RSHE is to give students the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage, civil partnership or other type of committed relationship. It should also cover contraception, developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure). It should teach what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships. This will help students understand the positive effects that good relationships have on their mental wellbeing, identify when relationships are not right and understand how such situations can be managed.

The Academy's RSHE policy will provide clear progression from what is taught in primary in Relationships, Health Education (RHE). We will build on the foundation of RHE and, as students grow up, at the appropriate time, extend teaching to include intimate relationships. Alongside being taught intimate relationships, students will also be taught about family relationships, friendships and other kinds of relationships that are an equally important part of becoming a successful and happy adult.

Teaching of RSHE at Park Vale Academy will enable students:

- to distinguish between content and experiences that exemplify healthy relationships and those that are distorted or harmful;

- to understand the benefits of healthy relationships to their mental wellbeing and self-respect and to understand that unhealthy relationships can have a lasting, negative impact on mental wellbeing;
- to believe they can achieve goals and that in order to achieve those goals they must stick at the tasks despite the challenges they may face;
- to be taught the facts and the law about sex, sexuality, sexual health and gender identity in an age-appropriate and inclusive way;
- to recognise when relationships (including family relationships) are unhealthy or abusive (including the unacceptability of neglect, emotional, sexual and physical abuse and violence including honour-based violence and forced marriage) and strategies to manage this or access support for themselves or others at risk;
- to recognise risks, harmful content and contact, and how and when to report issues to keep them safe online and offline;
- to, within the law, be well equipped to make decisions for themselves about how to live their own lives in the future, whilst respecting the right of others to make their own decisions and hold their own beliefs;
- to be prepared for the changes that occur to their bodies, minds and emotions as a consequence of growth from childhood to adulthood.

Section 3 - Links with other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Academy policies:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Equality Information

Section 4 - What is effective Relationships, Sex and Health Education?

It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of a stable and loving relationship. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health as well as preparing students at school for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching. Our curriculum is also designed to support children growing up in an increasingly complex and digital world. Whilst the internet is an overwhelmingly positive development in our lives, it does present significant challenges, particularly for young people. The dominance of social media, the prevalence of cyberbullying and the risk that children learn about relationships from untrustworthy sources – we aim to support children to make the right decisions and keep themselves safe and happy.

4.1 Attitudes and values

Students are taught to examine the value of family life, marriage and civil partnerships, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children. They are also encouraged to explore and consider moral dilemmas. RSHE can also help pupils to develop a positive self-image and high self-esteem, responsibility and the ability to make informed decisions.

4.2 Personal and social skills

RSHE encourages students to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively whilst developing self-respect and empathy for others. Students are taught to make choices based on an understanding of difference, with an absence of prejudice and learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse. It also provides opportunities to develop communication skills and assertiveness within a range of different situations.

4.3 Knowledge and understanding

RSHE focuses on understanding physical development at appropriate stages. The students will explore: human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships. Students will also be provided with information on contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice support services. Students will look at the reasons for delaying sexual activity, the benefits to be gained from such delay and the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.

This will provide an objective and balanced view of sexual matters, correcting any misconceptions and misinformation students may have gained.

Section 5 - Delivery of RSHE at Park Vale Academy

RSHE will be set in the context of a wider whole-school approach to supporting pupils to be safe, happy and prepared for life beyond school. The curriculum on relationships, sex and health will complement and be supported by the Academy's wider policies on behaviour, inclusion, respect for equality and diversity, anti-bullying and safeguarding. RSHE will sit within the context of the Trust and Academy's broader ethos and approach to developing pupils socially, morally, spiritually and culturally; and its pastoral care system.

The RSHE curriculum will be predominantly taught through the weekly PSHE tutor programme, providing a safe environment to explore these topics. However, as some of the RSHE content is age specific there will be opportunities for students to be taught RSHE in their year groups during the summer term each academic year. Additionally, the Academy will use outside agencies to provide specialist, age specific support to deliver some of the RSHE content. Furthermore, we recognise that RSHE is not an isolated subject and many other subjects provide a focus for exploring some elements of RSHE, for example: Science, Food Technology, PE and Philosophy, Religion and Ethics.

When studying RSHE, the Academy recognises the need to create a supportive and secure atmosphere where students can develop the confidence needed to talk, listen and think about sex, health and relationships. In order to do this, teachers will:

- Establish ground rules with students
- Emphasise the importance of mutual respect
- Encourage reflection
- Make students aware of the relevant people to approach in the Academy.

At Park Vale Academy all tutors will be involved in delivering the RSHE curriculum outlined in section 8 of this policy. The lead teacher (Mr Dark) for PSHE and RSHE will work closely with colleagues to ensure resources used to teach the curriculum are relevant, accessible and of a high standard. Effective teaching will ensure that core knowledge is broken down into topics of manageable size and communicated clearly to pupils, in a carefully sequenced way, within a planned programme of lessons.

Section 6 - Pupils with special education needs and disabilities (SEND)

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) will be accessible for all pupils. High quality teaching is differentiated and personalised, this is the starting point to ensure accessibility for all pupils. The Academy will also be mindful of the preparing for adulthood outcomes as set out in the SEND code of practice, when preparing these subjects for pupils with SEND. The Academy is aware that some pupils are more vulnerable to exploitation, bullying and other issues due to the nature of their SEND. RSHE can also be a priority for some pupils, for example some with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs or learning disabilities. For some pupils there may be a need to tailor content and teaching to meeting the specific needs of children at different development stages.

Section 7 - Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 The Trust

Monitor the implementation of the policy across all Academies within the Trust.

6.2 The Governors

That the Quality of provision is subject to regular and effective self-evaluation and that the subject is well led, planned and effectively managed.

6.3 Head Teacher

The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that RSHE is taught consistently across the school and for managing requests to withdraw students from the non-statutory/non-science components of RSHE.

6.4 Staff

All staff will ensure that:

- Ground rules are negotiated with the group before embarking on lessons of a sensitive nature so that both the staff and pupils can work together in a supportive atmosphere in which all members can speak with confidence and without fear of embarrassment, anxiety or breach of confidentiality;
- All students are offered the opportunity to explore ideas, situations and feelings in an atmosphere of confidence and support;
- All points of view they may express during the course of teaching RSHE are unbiased
- The teaching of RSHE is delivered in ways that are accessible to all pupils with SEND;
- The emphasis of teaching RSHE will always be the importance and understanding of personal relationships and the right of the individual to make informed choices;
- Issues of stereotyping, sexual equality, harassment, rights and legislation underpin the teaching of RSHE;
- Where appropriate they direct pupils to seek advice and support from an appropriate agency or individual. It is inappropriate for staff to give students personal advice on matters such as contraception;
- Where a student has embarked on a course of action likely to place them at risk, the member of staff will ensure that the student is aware of the implications of their behaviour. The member of staff should refer any potential concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

6.5 Parents/carers

The Trust acknowledge the key role that parents/carers play in the development of their children's understanding about relationships. Parents are the first educators of their children. They have the most significant influence in enabling their children to grow and mature and to form healthy relationships.

All Parents/Carers will be:

- Given every opportunity to understand the purpose and content of Relationships Education and RSHE;
- Encouraged to participate in the development of Relationships Education and RSHE;
- Able to discuss any concerns directly with the Academy.

Section 8 - Parental right to withdrawal from RSHE

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn only from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSHE. The Academy, before granting any such request, will require the Head Teacher to discuss the request with the parent and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. Following the discussions, except in exceptional circumstances, the Academy will respect the parents' request to withdraw their child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms. The head teacher will ensure that where a pupil is excused from sex education, the pupil will receive appropriate,

purposeful education during the period of withdrawal. There is no right to withdraw from the National Curriculum.

Section 9 - Working with external agencies

The Academy is aware that working with external partners will enhance the delivery of RSHE and will support staff to bring in specialist knowledge and implement different ways of engaging with young people. Where external agencies are used, we will check the credentials of the visiting organisation and any visitors linked to the agency. We will also ensure that the teaching delivered by the visitor fits with the planned programme and the published policy. We will work with external agencies to ensure that the content delivered is age-appropriate and accessible for all pupils. Any materials that are used as part of the delivery must be approved by the Academy in advance of the session. The Academy will ensure that the visitor is aware of aspects of confidentiality and understands how safeguarding reports should be dealt with in line with the Academy's Safeguarding Policy.

Section 10 - Safeguarding, reports of abuse and confidentiality

The Trust recognises that at the heart of RSHE, the focus is on keeping children safe, and acknowledges the significant role The Academy have in preventative education. In our curriculum we will allow children an open forum to discuss potentially sensitive issues. Such discussions can lead to increased safeguarding reports. Children will be made aware of the processes to enable them to raise their concerns or make a report and how any report will be handled. This will also include processes when they have a concern about a peer or friend. All staff are aware of what to do if a child tells them that they are being abused or neglected. Staff are also aware of the need to manage the requirement to maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality. This means only involving those that need to be involved, such as the Designated Safeguarding Lead. A member of staff will never promise a child that they will not tell anyone about a report of abuse, as this is not in the best interests of the child. The involvement of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead) will ensure that trusted, high quality local resources are engaged, links to the police and other agencies are utilised and the knowledge of the any particular local issues it may be appropriate to address in lessons.

Section 11 - Procedure for Monitoring and evaluating RSHE

The policy and its implementation will be reviewed every 12 months. The Academy's RSHE link governor is Mary Farmer. RSHE will be monitored by the Assistant Head Teacher, Mrs Harvey Taylor, whose responsibility is to:

- Ensure that RSHE is covered in the schemes of work for PSHE;
- Monitor the use of teaching and learning styles;
- Monitor the use of teaching materials;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Academy's RSHE programme;
- Ensure the content is age appropriate.

Section 12 – RSHE curriculum content

The Academy will cover the following content by the end of secondary school:

Families	Pupils should know: • That there are different types of committed, stable relationships. • How these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children. • What marriage and civil partnerships are, including their legal status e.g. that marriage and civil partnerships carry legal rights and protections not available to couples who are cohabiting or who have married, for example, in an unregistered religious ceremony. • Why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into. • The characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships. • The roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to the raising of children. • How to: determine whether peers, adults or sources of information are trustworthy, judge when a family, friend, intimate or other relationship is unsafe (and to recognise this in others' relationships); and, how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed.
Respectful relationships, including friendships	Pupils should know: • The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships (both on and offline) including: trust, respect, honesty, boundaries, privacy, consent and the management of conflict, reconciliation and ending relationships. This includes different (non-sexual) types of relationship. • How stereotypes, in particular stereotypes based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage • That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due tolerance and respect to others and others' beliefs, including people in positions of authority. • About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help.

	• That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control. • What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable. • The legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and that everyone is unique and equal.
Online and media	Pupils should know: • Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply online and offline. • About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online. • Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them. • What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online. • the impact of viewing harmful content. • That specifically sexually explicit material often presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners. • That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is against the law. • How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online.
Being safe	Pupils should know: • The concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment and domestic abuse and how these can affect current and future relationships. • How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn (on and offline).
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	Pupils should know: • How to recognise the characteristics and positive aspects of healthy one-to-one intimate relationships, which include mutual respect, consent, loyalty, trust, shared interests and outlook, sex and friendship. • That all aspects of health can be affected by choices they make in sex and relationships, positively or negatively, e.g. physical, emotional, mental, sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing. • The facts about reproductive health, including fertility and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women. • That there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressurising others.

	• That they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex. • The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices and options available. • The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage. • That there are choices in relation to pregnancy (with medically and legally accurate, impartial information on all options, including keeping the baby, adoption, abortion and where to get further help). • How the different sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDs, are transmitted, how risk can be reduced through safer sex (including through condom use) and the importance of and facts about testing. • How prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment. • How the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour. • How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment.
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The Law

It is important to know what the law says about sex, relationships and young people, as well as broader safeguarding issues. This includes a range of important facts and the rules regarding sharing personal information, pictures, videos and other material using technology. This will help young people to know what is right and wrong in law, but it can also provide a good foundation of knowledge for deeper discussion about all types of relationships. There are also many different legal provisions whose purpose is to protect young people and which ensure young people take responsibility for their actions. Pupils should be made aware of the relevant legal provisions when relevant topics are being taught, including for example:

- marriage
- consent, including the age of consent
- violence against women and girls
- online behaviours including image and information sharing (including 'sexting', youth-produced sexual imagery, nudes, etc.)
- pornography
- abortion
- sexuality
- gender identity
- substance misuse
- violence and exploitation by gangs

- extremism/radicalisation
- criminal exploitation (for example, through gang involvement or ‘county lines’ drugs operations)
- hate crime
- female genital mutilation (FGM)

Mental Wellbeing	Pupils should know: • how to talk about their emotions accurately and sensitively, using appropriate vocabulary. • that happiness is linked to being connected to others. • how to recognise the early signs of mental wellbeing concerns. • common types of mental ill health (e.g. anxiety and depression). • how to critically evaluate when something they do or are involved in has a positive or negative effect on their own or others’ mental health. • the benefits and importance of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation and voluntary and service-based activities on mental wellbeing and happiness.
Internet safety and harms	Pupils should know: • the similarities and differences between the online world and the physical world, including: the impact of unhealthy or obsessive comparison with others online (including through setting unrealistic expectations for body image), how people may curate a specific image of their life online, over-reliance on online relationships including social media, the risks related to online gambling including the accumulation of debt, how advertising and information is targeted at them and how to be a discerning consumer of information online. • how to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours.
Physical health and fitness	Pupils should know: • the positive associations between physical activity and promotion of mental wellbeing, including as an approach to combat stress. • the characteristics and evidence of what constitutes a healthy lifestyle, maintaining a healthy weight, including the links between an inactive lifestyle and ill health, including cancer and cardiovascular ill-health. • about the science relating to blood, organ and stem cell donation.
Healthy eating	Pupils should know:

	• how to maintain healthy eating and the links between a poor diet and health risks, including tooth decay and cancer.
Drugs, alcohol and tobacco	Pupils should know: • the facts about legal and illegal drugs and their associated risks, including the link between drug use, and the associated risks, including the link to serious mental health conditions. • the law relating to the supply and possession of illegal substances. • the physical and psychological risks associated with alcohol consumption and what constitutes low risk alcohol consumption in adulthood. • the physical and psychological consequences of addiction, including alcohol dependency. • awareness of the dangers of drugs which are prescribed but still present serious health risks. • the facts about the harms from smoking tobacco (particularly the link to lung cancer), the benefits of quitting and how to access support to do so.
Health and prevention	Pupils should know: • about personal hygiene, germs including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread, treatment and prevention of infection, and about antibiotics. • about dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including healthy eating and regular check-ups at the dentist. • (late secondary) the benefits of regular self-examination and screening. • the facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination. • the importance of sufficient good quality sleep for good health and how a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn.
Basic first Aid	Pupils should know: • basic treatment for common injuries. • life-saving skills, including how to administer CPR. • the purpose of defibrillators and when one might be needed.
Changing adolescent body	Pupils should know: • key facts about puberty, the changing adolescent body and menstrual wellbeing. • the main changes which take place in males and females, and the implications for emotional and physical health.