

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY (ACADEMIES)

The OHC&AT Board of Directors has agreed this Policy and as such, it applies across all OHCAT Academies – 30th June 2015.

Jay Mercer

Chair of OHCAT Board



Relationships and Sex Education Policy (Academies)

INTRODUCTION

Orchard Hill College and Academy Trust (OHC&AT) is committed to providing outstanding educational opportunities for all our pupils and pupils. Encouraging an understanding of healthy relationships and the ability to make good choices is a key strand of positive personal development for all our pupils and students.

This policy applies to all OHC&AT Academies and has been developed in accordance with the current requirements of the law, taking into account the Children's Act 1989 and 2004 and the Education Act 1993 and 2002.

For information on relationships and sex education at Orchard Hill College, please see the relevant policy document.

AIMS

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is an educational entitlement for all children and young people. It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development and sex, sexuality and sexual health. It enhances the self-worth and confidence of each individual and encourages mutually respectful relationships and empathy for others.

It has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- Recognition of the value of family life, marriage, stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children.
- Respect for self and others.
- Exploration of moral dilemmas.
- Development of critical thinking.

Personal and Social Skills

- Self-confidence, self-esteem and empathy.
- Managing emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively.
- Skills of choice to manage responsibility.

Knowledge and understanding

- Emotions and relationships.
- Physical development.
- Sexuality, reproduction, sexual health.
- Information on local and national contraception and sexual health services.
- Reasons for delaying sexual activity.
- The avoidance of unplanned pregnancy.
- Keeping safe from sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Every OHC&AT Academy provides a setting in which pupils can be offered appropriate teaching about Relationships and Sex Education. The purpose of RSE is to assist children and young people to prepare for adult life by supporting them through their physical, emotional and moral development and helping them to understand themselves, respect others and form and sustain healthy relationships. RSE is supported by each Academy's respective Science and PSHE curriculum and is inclusive of all pupils to ensure that they:

- Receive their sex education in the wider context of relationships.
- Are prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.
- Develop positive attitudes to sexuality.

Relationship and Sex Education at OHC&AT Academies is taught across all year groups up to and including the Sixth Form as part of the discrete curriculum of PSHE. Content is also delivered as part of the Key Stage 4 Science curriculum.

The programme is designed to support and complement the role of parents and carers who have the prime responsibility in this sensitive area. The content is taught within the moral framework and ethos of each Academy's principles as stated in the relevant Prospectus.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME CONTENT

The main aims of the Relationships and Sex Education programme are primarily to appreciate the values of family life and to promote the benefits of family life. Pupils are encouraged to recognise the responsibilities of parenthood and to respect themselves and others. Pupils are educated in the importance of behaving responsibly and respectfully in sexual matters. Moral and ethical issues are presented and discussed.

The programme looks at the biology of sexual maturation, focusing on the physical and emotional changes associated with puberty as well as the related issues of personal hygiene.

Pupils receive information about sexually transmitted infections including HIV and AIDS and the importance of practising safe sex. Pupils receive information about

contraception and its importance in guarding against unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. The programme covers the legal implications of sexual behaviour.

Pupils are made aware of people and places they can go to for appropriate help or advice. This includes discreet assemblies, pastoral support and the opportunity to speak to a chosen member of the Senior Leadership Team. Pupils have regular access to confidential conversations with the school nurse. On occasion pupils may be supported by additional input from outside professionals.

Partnership with parents/guardians

Most of a pupil's informal sex and relationship education occurs within the family and every OHC&AT Academy's programme will compliment and build on this in cooperation with homes.

Parents and carers will be made aware of the topics being covered by weekly email and telephone conversations. This will enable the school and the home to work in a complimentary way.

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw pupils from all or part of the Relationships and Sex Education programme that is not included in the Programme of Study for the Science National Curriculum. Any parent or carer wishing to withdraw a child from the programme should inform the Head/Principal in writing of their decision.

Pupils who are withdrawn will be accommodated separately and will be set appropriate, alternative work to complete.

Information on contraceptives

The teaching about contraception should be carried out in a frank and open manner with pupils being given non-biased information about various forms of contraception. OHC&AT Academy employees do not give advice to individuals; advice can only be given through an appropriate external agency.

Confidentiality and child protection

All OHC&AT Academy employees and external visitors who work with our pupils will be given a copy of this policy and our Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy. Colleagues will be guided by the Frazer Guidelines, that provide guidance for health professionals; details of these are provided in the DFE document "Sex and Relationship Education Guidance" (2000). The Head/Principal, the Child Protection Officer and the Child Protection Deputy will have a discussion with any health professional or other adult before they start work with OHC&AT Academy pupils. This is to ensure they are familiar with our policy and expectations regarding correct practice and responding to issues, including those that may relate to Child Protection matters.

Employees should ensure that pupils understand that they are not in a position to guarantee confidentiality.

Employees should ensure they are fully aware of their Academy's procedures in dealing with Child Protection issues.

Equal opportunities

Relationships and Sex Education will be delivered equally to both genders, normally in mixed classes. There are, however, certain topics that may be delivered in single sex groupings e.g. Menstruation and Personal Hygiene.

Topics delivered through the Relationships and Sex Education Programme

Details are available from each OHC&AT Academy.

Methodology and Approach, including explicitness and delivery of controversial topics

Employees should make it explicit that lessons will cover essential knowledge as well as the opportunity for reflection and discussion. It is important that teachers can present the course information with a sense of openness yet that the opportunity for pupils to ask questions is there.

Questions about individual contraceptive advice cannot be dealt with by OHC&AT Academy employees. Information can only be given by the relevant external agency.

OHC&AT Academy employees should try to respond to pupils' questions providing that answers are framed in terms of the promotion of family values.

Homosexuality does not feature as a topic in itself within the curriculum but there is acknowledgement that homosexual and lesbian relationships exist and that individual choices must be respected. References to the physical aspects of relationships should be avoided in discussion.

Inclusion statement

Every OHC&AT Academy has a commitment to ensure that the programme is relevant to all pupils and is taught in a way that is age and stage appropriate. Some pupils for a variety of reasons may benefit from 1:1 and small group RSE sessions. Separate boys' and girls' groups will be arranged on occasion. This work may be done by the teaching teams or in some instances by other teams e.g. behaviour support team.

Evaluation, assessment and reporting to parents/carers

Evaluation and assessment including self-assessment are an integral part of RSE. A comment on a pupil's progress in RSE will be included in every OHC&AT Academy's reporting to parents and carers.

POLICY REVIEW DETAILS

<i>Version:</i>	1.0
<i>Reviewer:</i>	John Prior
<i>Approval body:</i>	Family Board
<i>Date this version approved:</i>	30 th June 2015
<i>Due for review:</i>	Summer 2018

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy
E-Safety Policy
Positive Behaviour Policy
Equality and Diversity Policy