

Policy reviewed: October 2019
Policy review date: October 2020
Designated SLT Link: Kay Young
Archway School has a duty to monitor the operation and effectiveness of policies. Designated authority: Governors' Curriculum and Standards Committee



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Rationale

This policy is written in accordance with the most recent DFE Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Guidance 2019, the Education Acts of 1996, The Equality Act 2010 and sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

As a maintained secondary school we must provide RSE to all pupils as per the Children and Social work act 2017.

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of students, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

There are three main elements covered:

1. Attitudes and Values
2. Personal and Social Skills
3. Knowledge and Understanding

Aims

RSE at Archway contributes to promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students and stresses the importance of developing healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, sexual health and physical health and well-being.

RSE will be taught in a way that encourages students to consider personal relationships in the widest sense, morals, the importance of marriage and family life. Archway School wholeheartedly supports the DFE philosophy and believes it is best taught as part of PSHCE through their programmes of learning.

We believe in a whole school approach, that contributions can be made by different curricular areas and that teaching can be reinforced by the general ethos of the school in creating a caring and supportive environment for all students.

In our teaching we aim to:

- create an atmosphere where questions about personal relationships and sex can be asked and answered without embarrassment
- provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- prepare students for adulthood and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- help students develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- create a positive culture around issues of sexuality, relationships and health

Principles

RSE should:

- Encourage students to develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds
- Help students to understand the benefits
- Make students aware of the variety of lifestyles experienced by individuals and groups
- Promote a positive self-image and so respect for self and others
- Present sexual activity as a natural part of a fulfilling human relationship
- Encourage young people to view sexual activity in the context of a responsible, loving relationship
- Develop self-esteem, self-confidence and an understanding of students' own sexuality
- Explore issues around sexuality, personal relationships, sexual health and gender identity
- Provide knowledge and understanding of:
 - The functions and development of the human body
 - Various methods of contraception
 - Sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and AIDS
 - Pregnancy and abortion
 - Violent and abusive sexual behaviour
 - Coercive and controlling behaviour
 - Grooming and sexual exploitation
- Help students understand how the law applies to sexual relationships
- Help students to learn about safety and risks in relationships
- Help keep students safe from harm, both on and offline
- Allow students to make well informed positive choices about their physical health and well-being
- Help students understand relationships between good physical health and good mental well-being

Agencies

Health professionals and visitors from known agencies will be involved in the programmes as appropriate.

Students seeking individual contraceptive and sexual health advice will be directed to the School Nurse or other relevant health care professional.

Right to Withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of Sex Education within RSE up to and until three 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. Parents wishing to withdraw their child from RSE need to submit a written request to the headteacher.

Responsibilities

Head of RS/PSHCE – responsible for the development, monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

Head of Science – responsible for areas covered in the Science National Curriculum

SLT Link – Curriculum Deputy Head

The Governing Body

Further References

PSHCE, Science Department and PE Overview of Learning Document

Sex and relationships Education Guidance (DFE February 2019)

Education Act 1996 Section 352

Archway School Policies: Safeguarding; Curriculum; Teaching and Learning

The Equality Act 2010

Children and Social Work Act 2017 (sections 34 and 35)

Complaints policy