



THE ACADEMY OF
ST FRANCIS
OF ASSISI

Sex and Relationships Education Guidance Policy

Review Period:	Two yearly
Person Responsible For Policy:	Head of School
Governing Committee:	Admissions, Inclusion & Ethos
Date of Governing Committee Approval:	April 2018
Date for Review:	April 2020

1 Background Information

- 1.1 The Academy of St Francis of Assisi is an independent school for boys and girls aged 11-18. The students come from the residential areas of Kensington, Anfield, Fairfield and surrounding districts and reflect the wide social, ethnic and religious natures of these areas.

2 Aims of Sex and Relationship Education

- 2.1 The Academy believes that sex and relationships education and guidance is an education entitlement of all students and an integral part of each student's emergence into adulthood. **We aim to:**

- provide information for young people and their parents;
- encourage young people to make responsible decisions about the relationships they form with others;
- develop skills of assertiveness, communication;
- explore feelings and attitudes such as love, anger, trust, respect, sadness and grief;
- help young people to examine their own attitudes and values;
- foster self-esteem, positive self image and confidence which are important aspects of decision-making behaviour.

All education and guidance is given within the context of the Christian values that underpin everything we do at the Academy. With that in mind the main aims for students are:

- ◆ Learning the value of family life and stable loving relationships
- ◆ Developing self respect and an empathy for others
- ◆ Learning the benefits of delaying sexual activity and the benefits to be gained from such a delay.
- ◆ Learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages
- ◆ Understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health emotions and relationships
- ◆ Learning the importance of values, individual conscience and moral considerations

- 2.2 The aim of this policy is to clearly communicate to staff, parents, visitors and students the manner in which sex and relationship education will be delivered in this Academy.

- 2.3 Other Academy policies which have relevance to sex and relationship education are:

- PSHE/Citizenship
- Equal Opportunities
- Behaviour
- Anti-bullying
- Child Protection
- Teaching and Learning
- Special Needs
- Drug education

3 Morals and Values Framework

- 3.1 Students will be encouraged to consider the importance of the following values, which are derived from the Academy's Christian value system:

- respect and valuing themselves and others
- understanding and sensitivity towards the needs and views of others
- responsibility for their own actions
- responsibility to their family, the school and the wider community

4 Equal Opportunities

4.1 The Academy is committed to working towards equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life. All resources and methods have been checked against the following equal opportunities criteria:

- Is it consistent with the Academy's Christian Mission and ethos?
- Does it fit in with existing style (materials and methodologies) of health/sex and relationships education?
- Do you feel it is appropriate for the needs of your students in terms of language and images, attitude, maturity and knowledge required?
- Does it patronise or respect its audience?
- Does it enable you to take students emotional and intellectual readiness into account and link this to new learning?
- Does it avoid racism, sexism and other forms of stereotyping?
- Do you feel comfortable about using this resource?
- Do you feel there is an undue bias in this resource?
- Is it factually correct?
- Will any staff training be needed?
- Is it well designed, flexible, durable, easy to use and store?
- Does it conform to the legal requirements for sex and relationships education?

5 Content

5.1 Sex and relationships education provides knowledge and encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow students to manage their lives in a responsible healthy way. The following topics, underpinned by Christian values, will be included in the programme:

- Key Stage 3:
Family life and relationships, puberty, personal safety, friendship and love, gender issues, conception and birth, contraception, HIV/AIDS, safer sex, support organisations, sex and the law, life stages.
- Key Stage 4:
Family life and relationships, Birth processes, abortion, fostering and adoption, genetic inheritance, early parenting, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, sexual lifestyle, support organisations, prejudice and stereotyping, different faiths and cultures.

6 Organisation

6.1 Sex and relationship education is jointly co-ordinated by the RE, PD Co-ordinator and Head of Science, who are responsible for the overall planning, implementation and review of the programme.

6.2 Delivery is through:

- planned aspects within the Science, PD and Religious Education schemes of work
- addressing moral and ethical issues which may arise from apparently unrelated topics in all National Curriculum subjects. Within this category, as long as any discussion takes place within the context of the subject it will not be deemed to be part of the sex and relationship education programme and therefore not subject to the parental "right of withdrawal".

6.3 A variety of teaching approaches are used to:

- provide students with relevant information

- enable moral issues to be explored through discussion
- acquire appropriate skills

6.4 A wide range of teaching resources are available to teachers and for inspection by parents through the co-ordinators.

6.5 With regard to sex and relationship education it is important that staff feel comfortable with the subject matter. Only appropriately trained staff will be involved and will be supported through an in-service training programme. All staff are requested to teach within the Academy's Christian value framework as outlined and not allow their personal beliefs and attitudes to influence the teaching of Sex and Relationships Education within the PSHE framework.

7 Specific Issues Statements

The following issues may occur as part of sex and relationship education. Staff, parents and students need to be aware of the Academy's procedures.

7.1 Confidentiality and advice

Students will be made aware that some information cannot be held confidential, and made to understand that if certain disclosures are made certain action will ensue. At the same time students will be offered sensitive and appropriate support. The following procedures will be adhered to by all adults.

7.2 Disclosure of suspicion of possible abuse

The Academy's safeguarding procedures will be invoked. See relevant policy.

7.3 Disclosure of pregnancy or advice on contraception to under 16s

It is hoped that the following procedure will ensure that students who are in difficulty know that they can talk to an adult in the school and that they will be supported. Information and guidance will be sought from a health professional. The Academy will always encourage students to talk with their parents first. Students should be asked whether they can tell their parent(s) and whether they want help in doing so. If this takes place subsequent responsibility, then lies with the parent(s). It will need to be checked. If students refuse to tell their parent(s) the adult should refer them to a health professional. The adult should report the incident to the Principal who will consult with the health professional and Assistant Vice Principal about informing the parent(s).

7.4 Working with parents and student withdrawal procedures

The Academy is committed to working in partnership with parents. Under the 1993 Education Act parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education programme outside the National Curriculum. Parents wishing to exercise that right are asked to make an appointment with the Assistant Vice Principal to discuss their concerns. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in later sex and relationship education without parental approval.

7.5 Complaints procedure

Any complaints about the sex and relationship education curriculum should be made to the Assistant Vice Principal who will report to the governors via the ECM Committee.

7.6 HIV/AIDS, Contraception, Abortion and Sexuality

As part of the sex and relationship education programme issues of HIV/AIDS, contraception, abortion and sexuality are addressed. Facts are presented from a Christian perspective, with students being encouraged to consider their attitudes and values within the moral framework outlined earlier. They will be made aware of the difference between fact, opinion and religious belief.

7.7 Family life

The value of family life is an important aspect which will be approached largely through a consideration of the qualities and relationships between the group of people, with an emphasis on stability, respect, caring and support.

7.8 Outside agencies

Outside agencies will be used to support and assist the teachers in the development of the classroom based work. On rare occasions outside agencies may be involved in classroom based work as part of the planned developmental programme following discussion and negotiation. They will be required to work within the Academy's moral framework outlined earlier.

7.9 HIV/AIDS policy

The Academy follows the procedure outlined by the City Council with regard to supporting students or staff infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

8 Dissemination of the Policy

8.1 The full policy and curriculum programme are available to parents, the LEA and OFSTED on request through the Principal.

9 Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

9.1 Elements of sex and relationships education within the Science curriculum will be formally assessed. PD teachers are required to complete an evaluation sheet for each lesson.

9.2 The sex and relationships education programme will be monitored by the Assistant Head of School in consultation with the PD Co-ordinator and Heads of Science and RE.