



Trinity Academy Grammar

Policy:	Relationship, Sex and Health Education
Date of review:	July 2023
Date of next review:	July 2025
Lead professional:	Assistant Principal - Curriculum
Status:	Statutory

1. Purpose of policy and guiding principles

- 1.1. The school believes that Relationships, Sex and Health Education is the lifelong learning about moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. We define 'relationships, sex and health education' as learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health, as well as general health and wellbeing. The aim is to equip children and young people with the information, skills and values to have safe, fulfilling and enjoyable relationships, and to take responsibility for their sexual health and general wellbeing. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity; this would be inappropriate teaching.
- 1.2. We have a duty under the Equality Act (2010) to ensure that teaching is accessible to all children and young people, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT). Our inclusive sex and relationships education fosters good relations between students, tackle all types of prejudice – including homophobia – and promotes understanding and respect.
- 1.3. Sex and Relationships Education is delivered within the aims and philosophy of the trust and the agreed framework for the overall pastoral care of students.

2. Links with other policies or legislation

- 2.1. The content of Sex Education delivered within the school corresponds with National Curriculum Council, Health Education Guidance, and is in line with the DfE Guidance on Relationships, Sex and Health Education (September 2020) and the National Curriculum Science documents.
- 2.2. The religious, moral and social aspects are identified in the Schemes of Work and in accordance with the GCSE Religious Studies Syllabus. Other aspects are delivered within a Weekly Wellbeing lesson, in addition to Science, PE, Health and Social Care and in the Pastoral Curriculum (delivered during form time).

3. Aims and Objectives of Relationships, Sex and Health Education

- 3.1. Aim: To develop a healthy lifestyle and keep themselves and others safe. The objective of this aim is to understand:
 - the physical and emotional changes that take place at puberty
 - how to keep healthy, and what influences there are on health
 - that positive relationships and balancing work and leisure affects mental health
 - human reproduction, contraception, sexually transmitted infections, HIV, and high-risk behaviours
 - what is a risk, and how to make safer choices through relevant information
 - some ways of resisting pressure that threatens their own safety
 - the health risks associated with early sexual activity and pregnancy and about safer practices
 - how different forms of contraception work and where to seek advice in order to inform future choices
 - to seek professional advice confidently and find information related to health.
- 3.2. Aim: To develop effective and fulfilling relationships and learn to respect differences. The objective of this aim is to understand or develop:

- the changing nature of, and pressure on, relationships with friends and family, and when and how to seek help
- the role and feelings of parents and carers and the value of family life
- the value of negotiation within relationships and that personal action have consequences and may involve compromise
- communication skills with peers and adults
- the diversity of different ethnic groups, the power of prejudice and to be aware of exploitation in relationships.

3.3. Aim: To develop self-esteem, confidence, independence and responsibility; and make the most of their abilities. The objective of this aim is to be able to:

- recognise and manage influences, pressures and sources of help
- consider long and short term consequences when making decisions about personal health
- use assertiveness skills to counter unhelpful pressure.

4. Roles and responsibilities

- 4.1. The planning and organisation for the Relationships, Sex and Health Education programme, delivered through Weekly Wellbeing, is the responsibility of an Assistant Principal (responsible for Personal Development).
- 4.2. Liaison needs to be maintained with other Curriculum Leaders and with the senior member of staff in each school responsible for the Curriculum.
- 4.3. There is a designated teacher with responsibility for quality assuring the planning and delivery of Weekly Wellbeing. This information is fed back to the Assistant Principal (responsible for Personal Development).
- 4.4. Pupils will have opportunities to review and reflect on their learning during lessons, as well as pupil voice at varying points in the year. This will help shape the curriculum moving forward.

5. Delivery and continuity

- 5.1. All topics delivered form part of a carefully planned programme in a Weekly Wellbeing lesson. The Weekly Wellbeing programme is delivered to all students, in their year groups to ensure age-appropriate content, with all teaching staff part of the delivery team. There is progression and continuity from Year 7 onwards.
- 5.2. Staff, who have all received appropriate training, deliver all work on Relationships, Sex and Health Education through a series of well-resourced Weekly Wellbeing lessons and as a specific part of the Science and Humanities curriculum.
- 5.3. The teaching of the importance of healthy and caring relationship is delivered to all students within a series of pastoral assemblies and during form time periods. It is also taught as a distinct part of the Weekly Wellbeing lessons and through the Science and Humanities curriculum in all year groups.
- 5.4. Teachers will try to build on knowledge students have obtained from Key Stages One and Two in partner primary schools. The school will attempt to maintain an up to date knowledge of the Relationships, Sex and Health Education programmes delivered in partner primary schools through close transition links.

6. Values and framework

- 6.1. All sessions Relationships, Sex and Health Education are delivered within a framework which clearly outlines what is appropriate behaviour for these sessions based on good communication and interpersonal skills within a broader base of self-esteem and respect. The delivery aims to

be supportive, inclusive of all students' needs, honest and open whilst demonstrating respect for staff and others.

- 6.2. The aim is to provide an understanding that positive, caring environments are essential for the development of a good self-image and that individuals are in charge of, and responsible for, their own body and actions.
- Balanced factual information will be given within a framework in which students can examine their own attitudes and have opportunities to consider other views.
 - Materials, information and teaching strategies used will be selected to be appropriate for the students' age, intellectual development and maturity.
 - Teachers will assume that they may be covering areas that some parents will already have covered with their children; therefore attitudes may have been formed and should be respected.
 - It is recognised that it is important for the moral dimensions of sexual relationships to be considered responsibly, taking account of religious principles and parental guidance.
 - The content will be presented to students in such a way so as to encourage them to have due regard for moral considerations and the value of family life.
 - All work delivered will be sensitive to the needs of all students and will take account of gender, religions and sexual orientation.
 - Some work could be delivered in single sex groups.
 - Students will be consulted in terms of content and their preferred method of grouping for delivery of these sessions.
- 6.3. The materials in use will be reviewed regularly by the Assistant Principal (Personal Development). The students will play a full and active part in the reviewing their effectiveness.

7. Information to Parents

- 7.1. Parents are able to access this policy at any time via our website. It has been written in conjunction with parents and carers, as well as various stakeholders within the Academy. We want to work closely with parents to ensure that they are fully aware of what is being taught and the rationale for its importance.
- 7.2. Information on the content of the programme can be accessed on the school website.
- 7.3. Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from sex education lessons (Appendix 1). The Academy asks that any parent(s) who wishes to withdraw their child from the sex education element of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (that which is not part of the Science national curriculum) completes the 'opt-out' form (Appendix 2) and then makes an appointment to speak to a member of SLG to discuss how this topic(s) will be delivered by parents at home. Requests for withdrawal from lessons should be addressed to the Principal who will make suitable arrangements within 21 days.
- 7.4. Under the government statutory guidance (2020) students have the right to opt-in to sex education, even if this goes against the stated wish of their parents, when they are within 3 school terms of their 16th birthday. If this is the case, the Academy is obliged to provide a 'catch-up' programme on the sex education topics that may have been missed.

- 7.5. Please be aware that a parent's choice to withdraw a child from sex education does not affect the child's right to use confidential health services provided at the school or elsewhere.

8. Support for staff and students

- 8.1. The following measures are in place to support students and staff in relation to Relationships, Sex and Health Education:

- The Assistant Principal (Personal Development), Science Curriculum Leader, Curriculum Leaders / Deputy Curriculum Leaders will attend training and meetings as appropriate, to ensure that the school is kept informed and up-to-date.
- Teachers responsible for delivering Relationships, Sex and Health Education should feel confident and will be given appropriate support and training, if required.
- Experts who are not teachers may be involved in Relationships, Sex and Health Education. This will only take place after consultation with the Assistant Principal (Personal Development) and their involvement will be in accordance with this policy. The input by any outside agency may be observed, or supported, by academy professionals.
- Priority will be given to staff new to the teaching of Relationships, Sex and Health Education when training opportunities are available.
- Guidelines based on DfE guidance (issued under Section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and section 403 of the Education Act 1996) are available for all teachers of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (via Department of Education website). Staff are reminded of these guidelines and the need to develop appropriate teaching strategies.
- Staff are also reminded of their responsibilities towards Child Protection and how effective Relationships, Sex and Health Education can bring an understanding of acceptable behaviour, which can lead to a disclosure of a child protection issue.
- No member of staff will be instructed against their wishes to deliver Relationships, Sex and Health Education.
- Provision for students to discuss issues or concerns, on an individual basis is made available through the school pastoral team. The student will be met by the pastoral team and could be signposted to another support team within the school.
- The school's student support programme gives each student access to a Head of Year who can refer students to the appropriate, clearly identified staff within the academy, as and when necessary, to provide or arrange additional support or guidance. These staff will follow trust procedure in cases where students are thought to be at risk.

9. Organisational aspects of the Relationships, Sex and Health Education programme

- 9.1. Student groupings: Topics will normally be delivered in mixed gender and mixed ability groups. Occasionally single gender groups may be organised at the discretion of the staff delivering the programme in consultation with the Assistant Principal (Personal Development) and any outside agencies involved in the topic.

10. Health Professionals

- 10.1. The involvement of health professionals is encouraged within the Relationships, Sex and Health Education Programme, to support the work of the teaching staff and to present a community view on the various topics.
- 10.2. Aspects and approaches to the delivery of Relationships, Sex and Health Education by Health professionals will be in line with the academy's RSHE Curriculum Plan. Health professionals will, therefore, only be involved in the programme after discussion with one or more of those responsible for the programme within a particular academy and the agreement of the academy's senior leadership group (SLG).

11. Parental Requests

- 11.1. Parental requests to view materials will be met within 21 days. Parents will be invited to the academy at a mutually convenient time in order to look at materials used. Where copies of materials used are requested the Principal must be assured that these are not for reproduction or use elsewhere and may charge at the current rate for each sheet copied. Additional time must also be added to allow the clerical staff to produce copies and post them. This may be up to one working week. The handling of requests will be dealt with in line with the Freedom of Information Act.

11.2. Parental requests for their child/ren to be withdrawn from sessions on Sex Education will result in a discussion between the academy (usually an Assistant Principal) and the parent. If removal from certain or all sessions is decided then the child/ren will work in the Library or another agreed quiet space for the agreed sessions and will be set an equal amount of work to that being covered in the sessions plus homework.

12. Monitoring and Evaluation of the Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy

12.1. This will take place through:

- end of topic review of the materials and delivery by students and staff
- regular meetings of those involved in the delivery of the programme
- meetings between those responsible for planning and organising and the relevant member of the senior management team
- annual review of the policy on Relationships, Sex and Health Education
- reports will be made as required to the Staff/Student/Governors.

