

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

Approval Date – January 2022

Review Date – January 2023

It is the policy of the governors of Westfield Academy that students are encouraged to make safe, healthy and fulfilling lifestyle choices regarding their own relationships, sexuality and sexual relationships.

Rationale

It is an entitlement for all *students* that sex and relationships education is taught in the curriculum and is delivered in subjects such as Science, Personal Development, Social Ethics and Wider Curriculum.

Students are taught about the importance and features of successful human relationships. Students are also taught about human reproduction and encouraged to consider the moral dilemmas presented in both areas. Students learn about the risks associated with unprotected sex and are taught about safe sex and safe sexual health.

Additional support is available through outside agencies including the School Nurse and the Teenage Health Clinic. Support is accessed through referral by Westfield staff or through self-referral. The support offered by these services is confidential and includes counselling about safe sex and, where appropriate, the regulated issuing of contraception.

Roles and Responsibilities

1.1. The **Governing Body** will:

- Seek the advice of the SLT on this policy, keep it up to date and make it available to parents.
- Ensure that relationships and sex education is provided in a way that encourages students to consider ethical values, the value of family life, and the importance of marriage and other relationships.

1.2. The **Headteacher** will ensure that:

- The Governing Body is advised about the nature and organisation of sex education and how it reflects the aims and values of the school.
- Relationship and sex education is provided in a way that encourages students to consider ethics and the value of family life.
- Schemes of work are agreed, implemented and reviewed regularly and reflect the needs of students at Westfield.
- Parents' wishes to withdraw their child from sex education are met (up until 3 terms before their child turns 16); however, parents cannot withdraw their child from relationships or health education. (DfE guidance Feb 2019)

To be replaced with: point 2 below Right to withdraw

Certain tasks may be delegated to the Assistant Headteacher.

Staff are expected to:

- Provide relationship and sex education in accordance with this policy and in a way which encourages students to consider ethical values and the value of family life.
- Participate in training, as required, to provide sex education in line with the school curriculum policy.
- Implement the agreed schemes of work.
- Respond appropriately to those students whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from sex education, and respond to any parental concerns or queries made.

2 Right to withdraw

DfE guidance states that parents have a right to withdraw their child from sex education where it is taught as part of the Relationships and Sex education curriculum (up until 3 terms before their child turns 16). However, there is no right to withdraw a child from the sex education elements of the taught Science curriculum ie human development and reproduction. As sex education is currently taught through the Science curriculum at Westfield Academy, there is effectively no right to withdraw.

There is no right to withdraw from Health Education or the Relationships education element of Relationships and Sex education.

Related Documents

- Appendix 1 – Topics covered by Personal development
- Appendix 2 - refer to DfE guidance February 2019 and September 2021 update.

Monitoring

This policy is monitored by the Governors' Student Matters Sub-Committee.

Responsible

- Assistant Headteacher (Julie Strange)

APPENDIX 1

The following topics will be delivered as part of a planned Relationship and Sex education programme and will be age appropriate from years 7 to 11.
These topics are currently under review.

Personal Beliefs

Language and Ground Rules in Lessons

Dealing with Difficult Questions

Puberty and Menstruation

Contraception

IVF, Abortion, Euthanasia and Genetic Engineering

Awareness of Breast Cancer/Testicular Cancer

Awareness of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Teaching about all relationships including LGBTQ+

Pornography

Contextual safeguarding issues

APPENDIX 2

Relationships and sex education (RSE) Secondary updated 13th September 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education/relationships-and-sex-education-rse-secondary>

Department for Education February 2019

DfE guidance Feb 2019