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# Belfairs Academy



## **Sex Education Policy**

September 2018

Date created	September 2016
Version	1.0
Status	Published
Applicable to	All Staff
Author	ROG
Checked by	SLT/BRC
Valid from	September 2018

## **Objective**

The objective of sex education policy is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. A successful programme, firmly embedded in our Values curriculum, this will help young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.

## **Introduction**

Sex Education within the Academy is seen as an integral part of the curriculum. Our overall aim is to provide sex and relationship education appropriate to the knowledge, understanding and needs of the student. Facts are presented in an objective and sensitive manner and are set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour. Throughout, our students are encouraged to appreciate the value of stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood. Due cognisance is also paid to the changing nature of family units and gender roles both within the family and society.

Every effort is made to provide a trusting and enabling environment in which sensitive issues can be explored without embarrassment.

## **Delivery**

The Values curriculum framework will help students develop the skills and understanding they need to live confident, healthy and independent lives. It will play an important role, alongside other aspects of the curriculum and academy life, in helping students to deal with difficult moral and social questions. The National Healthy Schools Standard will provide a useful and supportive framework for delivering sex and relationship education. Effective delivery of sex education is embedded in the success criteria of the Standard.

Sex and Relationship Education at the Academy will follow the national guidance and will contribute to the foundation of Values curriculum by ensuring that the programme for students embraces the following in a culturally sensitive way:

- Understanding and respect of their physical, social, intellectual and moral development and that of others so that students are able to make informed judgments about their lifestyles
- Relationships, love and care and the responsibilities of parenthood as well as sex
- Teaching the adoption of responsibility and the consequences of one's actions to sexual activity and parenthood
- Development of a caring and responsible attitude towards themselves and others
- Focuses on boys as much as girls
- Builds self esteem

- Gives young people a clear understanding of the arguments for delaying sexual activity and resisting pressure
- Links sex and relationship education with issues of peer pressure and other risk taking behaviour such as drugs, smoking and alcohol
- Provides young people with skills that will enable them to cope with the problems of growing maturity and to resist pressure from peer groups or the media
- Awareness of current concerns and where appropriate provide them with information about support agencies
- Provides young people with information about different types of contraception, safe sex and how they can access local sources for further advice and treatment
- Ensures young people understand how the law applies to sexual relationships

Due regard is paid to the 1993 Education Act, particularly the parental right to withdraw their son/daughter from any or all of the school's sex and relationship education programme, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order.

The Academy will ensure that students will not be withdrawn from any Sex Education lessons for learning support. Opportunities will be given, for any student, who may be absent from any aspect of the SE modules to be given the relevant information.

All schemes of work, lesson plans and resources are available within both the Values and Science departments.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Subject Leader for Values will monitor and evaluate the Sex Education programme ensuring that:

- National guidance is followed
- Parents and carers are involved
- Staff are given appropriate training and support
- Students' views are listened to

### **Organisation of Sex Education Programme**

- **Who will teach it:**  
SE will be taught by a specialist team of Values teachers.
- **Training provision:**  
Training is provided when required by:
  - The Academy nurse
  - Essex & Southend Healthy Schools Partnership
  - LA

- **Methodology and approach including explicitness and handling of controversial topics:**
  - Ground rules are established at the start of any sensitive module
  - Controversial issues are dealt with sensitively in line with other school policies.
- **Specific classroom arrangements: (e.g. single sex, mixed)**  
Classroom arrangements are flexible. Generally classes are taught in mixed ability and mixed gender groups; however, on occasions it may be appropriate to deliver a unit in a single sex environment.
- **Curriculum entitlement**  
All students have an entitlement to sex and relationships education; students will not be withdrawn from these lessons to participate in any other activity.  
Parents have the right to withdraw students from any aspect of the sex education programme.
- **Procedures for reviewing effectiveness of programme**  
Students and staff feedback is monitored by the Subject Leader for Values.
- **Resources used and criteria for selection**  
A variety of resources is available within the department, appropriate to the age being taught. All resources are carefully vetted for their suitability, in line with the QCA guidelines, before being used in the classroom. All resources that are used comply fully with our e-safety and safeguarding policies.
- **Contraceptive advice, information and referrals of under 16's to health services (individually and in the classroom)**  
Students are made aware of where they may obtain contraceptive advice. A drop-in centre is available on the school premises on a weekly basis.
- **Confidentiality (individually and in the classroom)**  
All staff adhere to the confidentiality policies of the school.

### **Working with Parents/Carers**

All parents are informed, at the start of their child's experience at the Academy, of the content of the SE curriculum across the key stages.

All parents are invited to discuss any issues of concern or to view any resources used.