



# The Athelstan Trust

## Sex Education Policy

Date of Review	Approved by	Date of Approval	Next Review Date	Website
May 2018	Board	24/5/2018	May 2021	Yes

### Introduction

The government has made it clear that all state schools 'should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PHSE), drawing on good practice'. (*National Curriculum in England*, DfE, 2013) and that 'sex and relationship education (SRE) is an important part of PSHE education' (*Guidance – PHSE education*, DfE, 2013). In any school that provides SRE, parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of SRE (excluding withdrawal from sex education in National Curriculum science) although very few choose to exercise that right.

The Trust believes that SRE is an important dimension of this statutory entitlement, and that it should be complementary to and supportive of the role of parents in educating their children about relationships and sexuality.

Relationships and Sex Education forms part of a wider programme of health education, which is taught within the Personal, Social and Health Education programme. Aspects of sexual development and behaviour are taught in the context of a moral framework and with regard to the values of family life. The need for self-restraint, dignity and respect for others is emphasised to both sexes and students are taught the emotional, moral and physical risks of promiscuous behaviour.

The benefits of planned parenthood within a stable relationship are discussed as an integral part of the course.

Relationships and Sex Education plays an important part in fulfilling the statutory duties all schools have to meet. As section 2.1 of the National Curriculum framework (DfE, 2013) states:

'Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- **promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society**
- **prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life**

These duties are set out in the 2002 Education Act and the 2010 Academies Act. Whole school (Section 5) Ofsted inspections consider the extent to which a school provides such a curriculum.

### 1. **Definition: What is Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)**

1.1 RSE is not merely about biological facts and information, but should also emphasise the skills, attitudes and values that young people need in order to form loving and caring relationships and a basic preparation for adult life.

1.2 It is a developmental process, and should be appropriate to the age and development of the child.

1.3 It should consider:

1.3.1 Exploration of feelings about love, gender identity, sexuality, responsibility towards self and others.

1.3.2 Moral, legal, cultural and ethical dimensions, including the value of family life.

1.3.3 Biological facts and how the human body works.

1.3.4 The development of skills including decision making, assertiveness and communication.

### 2. **Aims**

2.1 To challenge ignorance and increase knowledge and understanding, by providing full, honest information about the physical, emotional and social aspects of human sexual development, including the nature of love, personal relationships and family life.

2.2 To reduce anxiety, by discussing the variability of human sexual behaviour and relationships.



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- 2.3 To promote responsible behaviour, by stressing individual responsibility for sexual behaviour.
- 2.4 To combat exploitation, by promoting an awareness of the misuse of sex.
- 2.5 To promote the ability to make informed decisions, and to help young people develop the ability to determine their own values within a moral framework.
- 2.6 To facilitate communication on sexual matters.
- 2.7 To incorporate understanding and skills as part of lifelong learning and possible parenthood.
- 3. **Parental Right to Remove Children from Relationships and Sex Education Lessons**
- 3.1 The Governors recognise that parents have the right to withdraw their children from RSE lessons up to the age of 15.
- 3.2 All parents will be asked whether they wish to withdraw their children from RSE lessons when their child enters the school.
- 3.3 Appropriate arrangements will be made for children who are withdrawn from RSE lessons to be supervised in a different room, in such a way that it does not draw attention to the fact that they have been withdrawn from the lessons by their parent(s).