

Policy Position Statement for the Teaching of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) - Secondary

Rationale

At E-ACT, we want all children to grow into happy, confident, and well-rounded individuals. We are committed to ensuring that they develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they need to thrive in the modern world.

Through a high-quality and comprehensive Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) programme at our secondary academies, we will equip pupils to form positive, healthy, and respectful relationships. Importantly, this includes teaching pupils how to stay safe, both online and offline, ensuring they understand the characteristics of supportive relationships and the importance of personal boundaries.

Our RSE policy is guided by the following statutory documents and government recommendations:

- [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) and Health Education Statutory Guidance](#) (DfE, 2019)
- [The Equality Act 2010](#) and accompanying statutory guidance

The Importance of Parental Engagement

We believe that collaboration between schools and parents is essential for delivering effective RSE. Open and transparent communication ensures that children receive consistent messages at home and school, helping to reinforce positive values and behaviours.

We encourage parents to:

- Review our RSE teaching materials and policies.
- Share their thoughts, questions, and suggestions with us.
- Contact their child's headteacher directly if they have concerns about the curriculum, allowing us to provide clarification and reassurance.

Parents can also contact the E-ACT Education Director, who works closely with headteachers to review and deliver RSE across the region.

What Will Our Pupils Be Taught?

Our RSE programme provides pupils with the essential knowledge, skills, and understanding to build and maintain positive, healthy relationships. The content is age-appropriate, delivered sensitively, and designed to reflect pupils' developmental needs.

- Building on their prior knowledge, secondary pupils will learn about more complex topics, including romantic relationships, sexual health, consent, and personal responsibility.
- There will be discussions on peer pressure, the influence of media, and the risks of online exploitation.

All teaching will be delivered by trained staff in accordance with statutory guidance, ensuring pupils feel safe and respected during discussions.

LGBT Inclusion in Relationships and Sex Education

At E-ACT, we believe that all pupils should understand and respect the diverse nature of families and relationships in modern Britain. Our curriculum ensures that pupils learn about the different types of families they may encounter, including same-sex families.

We recognise and respect that different religions and cultures may have varying perspectives on LGBT relationships. However, it is important to note that as a trust, we are legally obligated under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that we do not discriminate against any individual or group, including those with protected characteristics.

By fostering an inclusive environment, we aim to teach pupils to respect and appreciate people from all backgrounds, promoting tolerance and understanding.

Ensuring Safeguarding and Age-Appropriate Teaching

We are committed to safeguarding pupils throughout the delivery of RSE. Lessons will be age-appropriate, developmentally suitable, and delivered in a way that is sensitive to the needs of all pupils. Clear guidelines for staff training, content delivery, and pupil well-being are in place to ensure lessons are conducted respectfully and with care.

How Can Parents Find Out More About Our Secondary Programme?

Parents can access full details of the relationships and sex education curriculum by:

- Visiting the academy's website, where information on the programme of study is published.
- Contacting the academy directly to review teaching resources and materials or to request further clarification.

We encourage parents to stay engaged with us throughout their child's education to ensure alignment between school and home values.

Approval and Review

This position statement was updated in February 2025 and approved by Executive Leadership Team. The accompanying policy 'Relationships, Sex Education and Health Education Policy (Secondary)' was reviewed and approved by the Education Committee in February 2025.

Unless there are legislative or regulatory changes in the interim, this position statement will be reviewed annually.