

GREAT PARK ACADEMY

RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is an integral part of our work at Great Park Academy to help students to be physically, socially, and emotionally healthy. We believe the effective teaching of RSE is important if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives.

Requirements for schools regarding RSE and Health education and the law

The Department of Education informed all state secondary schools that, from September 2020, the teaching of RSE would be compulsory. In support of this decision, the Secretary of State for Education stated the following:

‘Today’s children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

This is why we have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools. The key decisions on these subjects have been informed by a thorough engagement process, including a public call for evidence that received over 23,000 responses from parents, young people, schools and experts and a public consultation where over 40,000 people contacted the Department for Education’.

What is relationships and sex education?

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. It should equip children and young people with the information, skills and positive values to have safe, fulfilling relationships, to enjoy their sexuality and to take responsibility for their sexual health and well-being.

Who will deliver relationships and sex and health education?

Delivery of RSE and Health education will be carried out by Great Park Academy teaching staff who teach Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE). Staff will be supported by NHS school nurses; either in the classroom, through the school assembly programme and on curriculum days dedicated to RSE and Health education.

How will delivery of the content be made accessible to all pupils, including those with special educational needs (SEND)?

Teaching staff will tailor the delivery of the PSHCE curriculum to the needs of all their students, differentiating lesson plans where appropriate, to take account of the sensitivity and maturity of the students in their care. Teaching staff will take particular note of student information provided by specialist SEND staff.

When and how often will RSE and Health education be taught at Great Park Academy?

RSE and Health Education will be taught through PSHCE lessons, which are weekly for year 7 and 8 students and fortnightly for year 5 and 6 students. A scheme of work giving details of the RSE content is set out in this policy. Although there are dedicated lessons given to the delivery of RSE, the subject matter of RSE and Health education will, from time to time, be integrated into the wider teaching of PSHCE and supported through the school assembly programme.

How is the RSE policy produced?

Great Park Academy's RSE policy has been produced in discussion with Gosforth Academy PSHCE teaching staff, Gosforth Junior High Academy staff and feedback from parents and students from these schools.

How it will the RSE policy be kept under review?

The RSE policy will be reviewed in the autumn of each academic year.

How often will the RSE policy be updated?

The policy will be updated, if required, based on the review of the policy each autumn of the academic year.

Parents' right to withdraw their child from RSE.

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. Before granting any such request we at Great Park Academy believe it would be good practice for the Assistant Principal to discuss the request with parents and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. The Assistant Principal will discuss with parents the benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child's social and emotional wellbeing, as well as the likelihood of the child hearing their peers' version of what was said in the classes, rather than what was directly said by the teacher.

This process is the same for pupils with SEND. However, there may be exceptional circumstances where the Assistant Principal may want to take a pupil's specific needs arising from their SEND into account when making this decision

If a pupil is excused from sex education, it is the school's responsibility to ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education or Health Education.

Approval of the RSE policy

Approval of the RSE policy will be given by the Trustees.

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) curriculum

Details of content/scheme of work and when each topic is taught is found in the appendix of this policy.

Appendix

Relationship Education Curriculum Content

Key Stage 2

Guidance recommendations	Covered in KS2 curriculum?
Families and people who care for me Characteristics of healthy family, different families, marriage, how to seek help	Year 5 Autumn Year 6 Autumn 2
Caring friendships Characteristics of friendship, ups and downs, who to trust and how to manage difficult situations	Year 6 Summer 1
Respectful relationships Respecting difference in people, courtesy and manners, self-respect, bullying, stereotypes	Year 5 Autumn 2 Year 5 Summer 1
Online relationships People pretending to be someone else, respect, recognising risks and harmful content, how information/data is shared	Year 5 Summer 1
Being safe Boundaries in friendships, privacy, appropriate and inappropriate physical contact, recognises feelings of being unsafe about an adult, how to report concerns, where to get advice	Year 5 Summer 1 Year 6 Spring 2

	September 2021
Date Approved:
Signed:
	September 2022
Date to be reviewed: