

# SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY (Statutory)

## Does sex and relationships education sexualise children?

No. SRE is part of the solution to concerns about sexualisation. The evidence, as summarised here: [http://www.ncb.org.uk/media/494585/sef\\_doessrework\\_2010.pdf](http://www.ncb.org.uk/media/494585/sef_doessrework_2010.pdf) shows that comprehensive SRE delays sexual activity for young people, and increases the likelihood of using contraception. The National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (NATSAL, 2013) showed a link between school-based SRE and reductions in teenage pregnancy.

## Context

Children are naturally curious about growing up, how their bodies work and how humans reproduce. Their questions need to be answered honestly, using correct language and explanations appropriate for their age and maturity, thus avoiding unnecessary mystery, confusion, embarrassment and shame.

Sex and relationships education addresses the questions and concerns raised by the biological facts – for example, exploring the feelings a new baby can bring, or the effect of puberty on friendships. It provides balance to sometimes distorted messages about sex and gender roles in the media, and helps protect children by explaining boundaries and safety, and developing the language and understanding needed to recognise abusive behaviour and seek help. It also helps pupils to develop respectful and consensual attitudes and behaviours.

Sex education provides an understanding that positive, caring environments are essential for the development of a good self-image and that individuals are in charge of and responsible for their own bodies. It ought to provide knowledge about the processes of reproduction and the nature of sexuality and relationships. It should encourage the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow students to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

## Objectives:

- **To promote a positive ethos and environment for learning**
- **to safeguard pupils (Children Act 2017), promoting their emotional wellbeing, and improving their ability to achieve in school**
- **To promote equality in relationships, recognises and challenges gender inequality and reflects girls' and boys' different experiences and needs**
- **To teach overtly that the Internet has developed from being an academic tool to a consumer novelty to an integral part of life, socialisation and business.**
- **To further understanding of diversity and inclusion, to see a reduction in gender-based and homophobic prejudice, bullying and violence and an understanding of the difference between consenting and exploitative relationships**
- **To helping pupils keep themselves safe from harm, both on and offline, enjoy their relationships and build confidence in accessing services if they need help and advice.**

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- To reducing early sexual activity, teenage conceptions, sexually transmitted infections, sexual exploitation and abuse, domestic violence and bullying
- To enable students to understand the biological aspects of reproduction
- To consider the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of family planning in terms of personal preference and their social and moral implications
- To recognise and be able to discuss sensitive and controversial issues such as conception, virginity, birth, child-rearing, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases and technological developments which involve consideration of attitudes, FGM, transgender, LGBT values, beliefs and morality. Help pupils understand a range of views and beliefs about relationships and sex in society including some of the mixed messages about gender, sex and sexuality from different sources including the media
- To understand aspects of legislation relating to sexual behaviour, gender and equal opportunities and to make aware the availability of statutory and voluntary organisations which offer support in human relationships
- To ensure children and young people's views are actively sought to influence lesson planning and teaching and that local issues and needs are responded to as necessary.
- To teach pupils about the law and their rights to confidentiality even if they are under 16, and is linked to school-based and community health services and organisations.

## Delivery

Sex education at Nunthorpe Academy is taught in a cross curricular way through Biology, Religious Education and LIFE. The diverse staffing and the variety of experience contained within this teaching body is seen as a valuable resource for the delivery of sex education. The provision of sex education is seen as progressive in terms of language, concepts and content which increases in depth and complexity as students progress through the Academy.

Throughout the course of teaching a variety of sensitive issues will inevitably be explored. It is recognised that an individual's sexuality is a highly personal matter. The teaching of sex education at Nunthorpe Academy will place stress upon the need for understanding and awareness of a variety of sexual preferences across the spectrum of human sexuality.

## Core themes covered during Y7-13

**These themes are covered by trained staff for Year 7 to 11, supported by Targeted Youth Support (an external provider)**

- Year 7 Healthy Relationships and Puberty
- Year 8 Diversity of relationships including LGBT
- Year 9

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- Contraception/STI's
- Domestic Abuse
- FGM
- HBV
- Trans Gender
- LGBT
- Year 10 Sex Ed Road Show
- Year 12/13
  - Sex Ed Road Show
  - Relationships

## Sex Education in the Curriculum

### Context

The prime responsibility for bringing up children rests with parents. Academies must recognise that parents are key figures in helping their children cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings. The teaching offered by Academies should be seen as complementary and supportive to the role of parents. In an attempt to achieve this, the 1988 Education Reform Act (Section 1) states that all students should be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well-planned programme of sex education during their academy careers through a curriculum which:

- (a) promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at Academy and of society; and
- (b) prepares such students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

It is recognised that sex education is a difficult issue which will place demands on Academies and teachers. However, the purpose of sex education should be to provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the processes of human reproduction. At the same time it should lead to the acquisition of understanding and attitudes which prepare students to view their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner.

The sex education delivered should be tailored not only to the age, but also to the understanding of students. Nunthorpe Academy will aim to present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner. It will be set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law regarding sexual behaviour. Such matters will be treated with sensitivity and great care will be taken to encourage all children to feel a sense of worth. Particular care will be taken when issues such as marital breakdown and divorce are dealt with.

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## The Parental Right to Withdraw their Son or Daughter from Sex Education Lessons:

Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the Academy's programme of sex education, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order. It is realised that, under exceptional circumstances, a very small number of parents may wish to exclude their children from this programme. In this case, such parents should write to the Head of School, stating their objections. The biological element of reproduction remains within the National Curriculum in Science for Key Stage 3.

## Advice to Individual Students:

It is understood that it is important to distinguish between the Academy's function of providing education generally about sexual matters and the giving of advice to individual students on these issues. Good teachers have always taken a pastoral interest in the welfare and well-being of their students. It is also understood that this function should never trespass on the proper exercise of parental rights and responsibilities. It is understood that particular care must be exercised in relation to giving contraceptive advice to students under the age of sixteen, for whom sexual intercourse is unlawful. It is the general rule that giving an individual student advice on such matters without parental knowledge or consent would be inappropriate. Students will be given up-to-date information on a wide variety of contraceptive methods and whilst general statements about the efficacy of these methods will be given, specific advice and guidance to individuals will not be made without consultation with the parents.

Nunthorpe Academy has a confidential drop in service that is led by a school nurse

Where the circumstances are such as to lead the teacher to believe that the student has embarked upon, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which is likely to place him or her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, the teacher has the general responsibility to ensure that the student is aware of the implications and is urged to seek advice. The member of staff will seek advice from the Safeguarding Team.

## Aims

In the attempt to enable students to acquire knowledge, skills, responsible attitudes and behaviour with regard to sex education, Nunthorpe Academy aims to:

Provide a worthwhile educational experience for all its students which will present opportunities:

- to help students to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and for others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs and views of others, loyalty and fidelity;
- to enable students to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications, and risks, of certain types of behaviour and to accept that both sexes should behave responsibly in sexual matters;
- to support the personal development and social skills of the students;
- to ensure that students have an understanding of their own and others' sexuality;
- to enjoy relationships based upon mutual respect and responsibility which are free from abuse and exploitation;
- to provide information and knowledge which will counteract prejudice and ignorance;

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**This policy will be kept under regular review in light of legal developments and best practice.**

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- to develop an understanding of risk and to promote strategies for personal safety;
- to enable students to be aware of the sources of help and to acquire the skills and confidence to use them.

## Support available regarding sexual matters

We provide support to students regarding concerns of a sexual nature through the following means:

- “School nursing service” weekly drop in.
- Heads of House and Pastoral Managers
- The LIFE faculty teachers
- The Safeguarding Team

Further information and resources

## About the PSHE Association

The PSHE Association is the leading national support body for PSHE teachers. We provide dedicated advice, consultancy and support by phone or email, the latest PSHE news, a library of downloadable resources including model schemes of work, review and quality assurance tools, model policies, guidance on reporting and recording, regular CPD events and our national conference as well as membership of a large, growing and increasingly influential community of over 7,000 professionals working together for high quality PSHE education.

For resources produced by the PSHE Association, visit: [www.pshe-association.org.uk](http://www.pshe-association.org.uk)

- The Sex Education Forum website serves as a gateway to helping teachers and other SRE practitioners find resources to support the provision of good quality SRE: <http://www.sexeducationforum.org.uk/schools.aspx> Email [sexedforum@ncb.org.uk](mailto:sexedforum@ncb.org.uk) for more information, or to subscribe for free updates. The Sex Education Forum is hosted by the National Children’s Bureau.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

1. The Equalities Policy
2. The safeguarding policy
3. Cross-curricular links – Science, RE, E safety, drugs, alcohol and tobacco policies