



## **E-ACT: Policy Position Statement for the teaching of Relationship and Sex Education.**

**Updated: May 2019**

**Policy written and approved by the Board of Trustees and the Executive Leadership Team**

### **Policy Position Statement Rationale**

The Trust wants all of our children to grow up to become happy and well-rounded individuals. We will ensure that they have the knowledge and skills they need to thrive when they leave school to experience the challenges of the modern world.

Most importantly, it is about making sure that they know how to keep themselves safe and healthy and have positive relationships with others. Through relationships education at our primary academies and relationships and sex education at our secondary academies, we will help pupils to understand what positive relationships can and should be so that they are confident in their young adult lives and in the future.

The policy is informed by the following statutory guidance and information from the Department for Education:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/781150/Draft\\_guidance\\_Relationships\\_Education\\_Relationships\\_and\\_Sex\\_Education\\_RSE\\_and\\_Health\\_Education2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781150/Draft_guidance_Relationships_Education_Relationships_and_Sex_Education_RSE_and_Health_Education2.pdf), (DfE 2019)

### **The importance of parental engagement**

We believe in being open with parents about what we are teaching their children. Through an exchange of knowledge and information with our parents, we feel that our children benefit from being given consistent messages in an academy and at home.

We therefore encourage parents to share their thoughts with us and to review our teaching materials and policies. Most importantly if any parents have specific concerns about the content of the curriculum being taught please request to meet with the head teacher so that we can allay your concerns, explain what we teach and how.

We also encourage parents to share questions and suggestions with the respective E-ACT Regional Education Director who works the headteachers in each region.

### **What will our pupils be taught?**

Our primary and secondary programmes give children and young people the essential skills for building positive, enjoyable and respectful relationships.

Our staff will take time to talk to our pupils in an age appropriate and sensitive way about healthy friendships, family relationships and other relationships that they are likely to encounter. This will include discussion around keeping safe from inappropriate behaviour both on and offline.



The foundations of relationships education will be taught within our primary academies. Our secondary academies will build on this foundation and at the appropriate time extend teaching to include more specific topics of discussion about relationships and sex education.

### **LGBT inclusion in relationships education**

We want our pupils to understand that families in Britain can be in many different forms. This means that people of all backgrounds should be represented when we talk to our pupils about relationships.

There are of course different religious perspectives about LGBT relationships which we respect. It is our view that by developing understanding for people from all backgrounds, we can support our pupils to respect people who happen to be different to them.

Parents should be aware that our academies have to uphold our legal duties, primarily under the Equality Act 2010<sup>1</sup>. We must not and will not discriminate against anyone with protected characteristics.

### **Looking ahead to 2020**

Parents should be aware that from September 2020, parents will no longer have the right to withdraw their child from any part of our relationship's education programmes at primary or secondary level. The Department for Education (DfE) will produce further guidance in relation to this over the next few months and we will work with parents to help everyone understand why this is important.

### **How can parents find out more about our primary and secondary programmes?**

Full details of both relationships' education and relationships and sex education programmes of study can be found on our academy websites.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>