**Relationships and Sex Education Policy September 2024**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy has been developed in accordance with the current requirement of the Law and the related national aims and OFTSED criteria. The Policy has been reviewed in light of supplementary guidance to DfE (2000) by Brook and the PHSE association (2014) and incorporates the moral framework and ethos of Oscott Academy.

**VISION**

Our aim is to prepare young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. We believe that pupils should have access to the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to live safe, fulfilled and healthy lives. The Relationships and Sex Education at Oscott Academy will provide comprehensive and appropriate teaching and learning to enable our pupils to develop and make informed decisions. The purpose of RSE is to prepare young people for adult life by supporting them through their physical, emotional and moral developments and helping them to understand themselves, respect others and form and sustain healthy relationships.

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

• To understand and manage physical and emotional changes related to puberty and take responsibility for their personal hygiene

• To understand the anatomy and function of human reproduction including the menstrual cycle

• To understand the difference between sex, gender identity and sexual orientation

• The understand nature and importance of marriage, civil partnerships and other stable, long-term relationships for family life and bringing up children

• To explore parenting skills and qualities and their importance to family life (including the implications of young parenthood)

• To know different types of relationships including marriage and civil partnership and recognise and access sources of support in vulnerable situations (FM, shame, honour based violence, LGBT)

• The risks associated with female genital mutilation (FGM), its status as a criminal act and sources of support for those at risk, or already subject to FGM.

• To consider different levels of intimacy, their consequences and the importance of delaying intimacy until ready

• To learn about the law in relation to consent (including the legal age of consent for sexual activity, the legal definition of consent and the responsibility in law for the seeker of consent to ensure that consent has been given)

• To know risks related to unprotected sex, including STIs, HIV/aids unintended pregnancy and how to respond

• To know methods of contraception, including the condom and pill and the importance of communication and negotiation in contraceptive use

• To understand the features of healthy relationships and those of unhealthy relationships including CSE and grooming

• To understand the role of sex in the media and consequences of this including pornography, sexting and body image

• To understand how to check yourself for cancer and other illnesses, including how to seek help

**DELIVERY OF RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION**

• Relationships and Sex Education is a core area of learning in our Enrichment Programme. There are five areas of learning in the Enrichment Programme and RSE also complements learning in ‘Healthy Lifestyles and Keeping Safe’.

• The Enrichment Programme is delivered weekly during registration and embedded twice yearly during Enrichment Weeks.

• RSE is delivered only during Enrichment Weeks and to all pupils from year 7 to 11 and including Post 16.

• Pupils are taught in single gender, year groups, to enable open discussion and deliver targeted content

• Each year group receives a discrete unit of between five and ten hourly lessons

• Pupils’ questions will be answered by clear, impartial scientific information and discussed within the safe, learning environment of the classroom.

• Teachers may ask a child to wait for an answer to give them time to consult with the school’s leadership team.

• At the end of a morning/afternoon of learning, we will allow pupils to raise anonymous questions by writing paper-based questions and submitting them together to the teacher. Pupils will be made aware of safeguarding procedure before and after lessons and concerns will be followed up.

• There will be times when visiting speakers, (e.g. Nurse) come in to school to deliver an aspect of the Relationships and Sex Education curriculum. All visiting speakers will be clear about the school policy, government guidelines and boundaries of confidentiality

• Staff should try to respond to students’ questions providing that answers are framed in terms of the promotion of family values and combating discrimination and prejudice against people on any basis, e.g. their gender or their sexual orientation.

• Staff will only be asked to deliver the programme after training provided by the Head of PSHE and Citizenship

**SUMMARY OF CONTENT**

Year 10:

To understand different types of relationships and access support in vulnerable situations (Forced Marriage, shame, honour based violence, LGBT)

Definition and law around consent

Risks related to unprotected sex ( STIs and teenage pregnancy)

Different methods of contraception

Healthy, unhealthy and exploitative relationships in particular Child Sexual Exploitation and grooming

E-safety: staying safe online, social media and online dating

Year 11:

To understand different types of relationships and access support in vulnerable situations (Forced Marriage, shame, honour based violence, LGBT)

Definition and law around consent including how to protect yourself

Risks related to unprotected sex ( STIs)

Healthy, unhealthy and exploitative relationships in particular Child Sexual Exploitation and Grooming

Checking for cancers (testicular, ovarian, cervical and breast) and other illnesses

Sex and sexuality in the media including pornography and body image

**WORKING WITH PARENTS AND CHILD WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES**

The programme is designed to support and complement the role of parents/carers, who have the prime responsibility in this area and who have regular opportunities to view the materials and discuss the approach of the Academy to this issue. Oscott Academy recognises the right of parents to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex education provided, but not from teaching the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under National Curriculum Science and therefore necessary by law. Any parent wishing to withdraw a child must inform the Head teacher in writing of their decision. However, the school will encourage parents to engage with the programme through providing opportunities to discuss content with the school, through the sharing of this policy and by supporting parents who wish to access and deliver teaching material to delivering RSE at home with their child.

**SENSITIVE ISSUES**

Controversial topics may arise which depend upon the judgement of the individual teacher to decide whether subjects are suitable for class discussion. It is expected that when dealing with these issues teachers will follow this set of guidelines:

• Teachers should establish clear parameters about what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole-class setting, (i.e. if a question is too personal remind pupils of the ground rules).

• Teachers are careful to ensure that their personal beliefs and attitudes do not influence the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education.

• No one (teacher or pupil) should be expected to answer a personal question and no one will be forced to take part in a discussion.

• Meanings of words will be explained in a factual way.

• Teachers should not be drawn into providing more information than is appropriate to the age of the child.

• If a teacher is concerned that a pupil is at risk of harm the Designated Senior Leader should be informed and the usual Child Protection procedures followed.

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Monitoring and evaluation of the Relationships and Sex Education programme will take place during Enrichment Weeks using feedback from both pupils and members of staff. Learning Walks will be conducted and any need for staff training will also be assessed. Content delivered through Science is monitored following normal school