

Policy Statement for Sex Education

<i>Policy/Procedure Title</i>	<i>Statement for Sex Education</i>
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The Academy believes that 'the importance of sexual relationships in all our lives is such that sex education is a crucial part of preparing children for their lives now and in the future as adults and parents' (HMI CM 6). Equally, we believe in the entitlement of each individual to learn about and understand their own and others sexuality and to be able to develop self esteem and respect for others which is one of the cornerstones of good sex education.

In the light of this the Academy has decided to provide sex education across all Key Stages at a level commensurate with pupil maturity.

It is important to stress that it is the Academy's policy that sex education should be part of a broad and balanced programme of health education and personal and social education. Sex education is integrated into the curriculum fully and not isolated, taken out of context or over-emphasised in any way. Any arrangements adopted will need to take account of modifications of provision entailed by statements of Special Educational Needs.

Sensitive topics, explicit issues or questions raised by students will, in all cases, be addressed at the discretion and judgement of the person in charge.

The Academy believes that pupils learn much from the overall ethos of the Academy - from attitudes of staff, from relationships and from expected standards of behaviour. Thus, from the start of their Academy life at The Propeller Academy Trust, all pupils are expected to form codes of behaviour which encourage positive relationships.

In the lower Academy, social skills and PSHE are an integral part of all programmes and form a secure foundation for sex education. In the senior Academy all classes have PSHE on their timetable. This includes a planned programme of sex education.

For pupils at KS4 sex education covers issues such as sexual intercourse and contraception, childbirth and parental responsibility, HIV/AIDS, child abuse and homosexuality. Where appropriate outside speakers are invited to speak to the children.

PMLD issues relating to explicit sexual activity would be dealt with at individual level in consultation with parents.

The Academy believes in the importance of providing a safe environment where pupils are secure in the knowledge that they can receive support and guidance from a trusted adult. It is understood by all staff that the adult may not be the pupil's class teacher.

All staff within the Academy understand the need to use their discretion in relation to confidentiality.

Procedures

- The Academy follows the statutory position on 'Sex Education in Academy' (DFES circular 5/94).
- Parents receive a letter explaining their statutory rights
- Sex Education appears on Staff Meeting Agendas as necessary.
- Outside agencies (e.g. Academy Nurse, Educational Psychologist) and visiting speakers are made aware of this policy.

This policy should be read in conjunction with PSHE, Behaviour, Health, Science & Equal Opportunities procedures