

Alcester Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mellors
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Nick Cooke



Assistant Headteacher: Miss Karen Buckthorp
Assistant Headteacher: Miss Charlie McKenzie

21st March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to you to share with you some updated information regarding our Relationships and Sex Education policy (RSE) and how you can find out further information regarding the policy, curriculum, associated resources and the right of withdrawal. We regularly review our relationships and sex education (RSE) curriculum and policy, so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)

Aims of Relationships and Sex education (RSE) at our school are as follows:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

Statutory guidance

As a secondary academy, we must provide RSE to all pupils. In developing our policy and curriculum and teaching RSE, we are required to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Curriculum coverage

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values. RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE). Forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM (female genital mutilation) are taught as part of staying safe in Personal Development sessions.

Currently at Alcester Academy, all students take part in Super learning Days (SLDs) throughout their years at Alcester Academy, these will be based on topics that are part of the PSHE curriculum. Specifically, the RSE curriculum is covered in the SLDs, "My Mate Fancies You (Year 7), "Trust me" (Year 9), "Working for Marcus" (Year 9), "Calling it out" (Year 9) and "Safe & Sound" (Year 10). More details of these can be found on our website and also on the Loudmouth website [RSHE Relationships & Safeguarding Programmes | Loudmouth](#)

In addition - Year 7 have a designated Personal Development lesson per week (1 hour), additional time is also spent in tutor discussing topics that form part of RSE curriculum. Years 8,9 10 & 11 have two tutor sessions per week dedicated to Personal Development where RSE topics are discussed.



They also have standalone sessions on healthy relationships delivered by organisations such as Safeline and School Health.

We develop the RSE policy curriculum taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils.

If pupils ask questions outside the scope of our policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner, so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online. Decisions about the age appropriateness and sequencing of topics were based upon an age specific curriculum approved by the PSHE Association.

Right of Withdrawal RSE is part of all pupils' education and it is hoped that all will participate.

Some parts of RSE are compulsory, these are part of the National Curriculum for science. Parents/carers only have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE, up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents/carers and take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education. This information is also available on our school website.

Opportunities to discuss the RSE policy, curriculum and view samples of resources used

- You are welcome to view the curriculum and share your views at any time regarding the policy, even after the consultation timeframe. **Please email admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk**
- We will be opening our consultation for the Draft Relationships & Sex Education Policy on 21.3.2025 and it will close on 23.4.2025. Following this consultation the policy will be taken to Governors for ratification.
- To help you understand the curriculum requirements we need to meet, please take a look at the summary of what all pupils are expected to know by the end of secondary school. This is an appendix at the end of the policy document.
- Also, our curriculum plans for each year group for both Personal Development and RSE are on the school website [PD Programme 2024.25.pdf](#) also further details of our Super Learning days [Alcester Academy | Safeguarding](#)
- You may also find the DfE guidance, "Educations, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education" a useful reference tool. [Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance](#)
- If you wish to book an appointment to feedback your views, see resources used or ask any further questions, do not hesitate to contact the school

Thank you for your time.

Yours faithfully



Karen Buckthorp
Assistant Headteacher