

## **THE ACTIVE LEARNING TRUST POLICY STATEMENT ON RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION, RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) AND HEALTH EDUCATION**

The Active Learning Trust recognises and accepts its responsibility for ensuring all its schools provide relationships and sex education (RSE) to all its pupils. From September 2020, relationships and sex education will become statutory in all secondary schools in England and relationships education will become statutory in all primary schools in England.

Trustees recognise that each school should have an individual policy that reflects its curriculum intent and implementation of relationships education, RSE and health education, and the following statement is written to guide these policies. The core expectations of schools and values of our Trust Policy Statement are captured below:

- Teaching of RSE should:
  - ✓ be an identifiable, planned part of the curriculum supported by timetabled lessons across all the key stages, with evidence of continuity and progression
  - ✓ meet the diversity of pupil needs, experiences and beliefs including those with special educational needs and disabilities
  - ✓ delivered by trained practitioners
  - ✓ supported through an inclusive whole school ethos, reflected in related policies eg on equalities, safeguarding, positive behaviour, anti-bullying
- Pupils' views about RSE should be actively sought so that teaching is relevant to their lives and nurtures their well-being and be assessed and adapted as needs change.
- Lessons should be delivered within a safe and supported learning environment where pupils will feel confident to learn and encouraged to participate by using a range of pedagogical approaches with opportunities to develop critical thinking and relationship skills.
- Pupils should be given opportunities to reflect on values and influences (such as from peers, social media, faith and culture) developing an understanding of shared and different attitudes and views towards relationships and sex. This should be done with care and consideration of relevant legal requirements including the Equality Act (see below). For example, it would not be appropriate to debate whether arranged or interfaith marriage or same-sex relationships are 'acceptable'.
- Teaching should include developing an understanding of different relationships and discuss relevant issues preparing pupils for life in modern Britain, including friendships, families, consent, relationship abuse, sexual exploitation and safe relationships online.
- All teaching should foster gender and LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans) equality, challenging all forms of stereotyping, discrimination, harassment and victimisation in RSE lessons and in everyday school life, meeting the legal duty on schools as set out in the Equalities Act 2010 and the nine protected characteristics
- Teaching should be based on reliable sources of information including the law and legal rights and distinguish between fact and opinion.

- A positive view of human sexuality should be presented, with honest and medically accurate information, so that pupils can learn about their bodies, discuss issues around body image and sexual and reproductive health in ways that are appropriate to their age and maturity.
- Learning should include how to get help and treatment from sources such as the school nurse and other health and advice services, including reliable information online.
- Teaching should take account of the outcomes of consultation with parents/carers, but ultimately the school should exercise its professional judgement on what should be taught and how.

The Local Governing Body are responsible for ensuring that effective RSE is delivered in its schools, including agreeing the roles, responsibilities and duties of named individuals who will lead, manage and deliver the RSE policy in practice under:

- The overall supervision of the Headteacher/Principal; and
- Within the overall Active Learning Trust's policy statement.

The Local Governing Body and Headteacher, in determining the school's RSE policy will need to ensure that it meets legal and statutory requirements and has due regard to non-statutory guidance.

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