


Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy



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1. Introduction

Haven High Academy takes its responsibility to provide relevant, effective, and responsible Relationships, Sex and Health education to all its pupils as part of the academy's personal, social, health and economic education (PSHEE) curriculum very seriously. The Academy wants parents and pupils to feel assured that sex education will be delivered at a level appropriate to both the age and development of pupils, and that it is safe to voice opinions and concerns relating to the sex education provision.

This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, pupils, and staff from the Academy to ensure that it meets the academy community. The policy is available on the Academy website and is reviewed and approved by the Trustees annually.

2. Policy Aims

Through the delivery of high quality, evidence-based and age-appropriate RSE and Health Education, the Academy aims to help prepare pupils for the onset of puberty, give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene, create a positive culture in relation to sexuality and relationships and to ensure pupils know how and when to ask for help and where to access support. By the end of their education the Academy hopes pupils will have developed resilience and feelings of self-respect, confidence, and empathy in preparation for the responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

3. Definitions

3.1 Relationships education

Relationships education is about pupils being taught different relationships including about friendships, family and the people that can help them. Respect for others is also taught in an age-appropriate way with a focus on healthy relationships that pupils will encounter. This also applies to online relationships to ensure that children are safe when online and how others can use their information in a way that they may not expect.

This teaching will include different types of family that provide a nurturing environment for children, including for example single parent families, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, LGBT parents among others. The purpose of this is to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of different families and to show people come from different backgrounds.

3.2 Relationships and sex education (RSE)

RSE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral, and emotional development. It is about teaching sex, sexuality and sexual health in a way that gives pupils the confidence to make sound decisions when facing risks and other challenges. It includes teaching about friendship, the importance of caring, stable, and mutually supportive relationships with another person, and how to control and understand feelings that come with being in a relationship.

RSE does not encourage early sexual experimentation. It teaches children and young people to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others, to build body confidence, self-esteem and understand the reasons for delaying sexual activity so that they can develop safe, fulfilling, and healthy sexual relationships, at the appropriate time.

RSE will outline that there are different types of committed, stable relationships, the characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships, the importance of marriage as a relationship choice and why it must be freely

entered into, how relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for raising children, as well as highlighting the roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising children, characteristics of successful parenting and how to judge when relationships have become unsafe as well as how to seek help or advice and report concerns about others.

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 Headteacher

The Headteacher with support from their respective Senior Leadership Team, will ensure that staff are supported and up to date with policy changes. They will ensure that RSE and Health Education is well led, effectively managed, and well planned across various subjects (to avoid unnecessary duplication of topics) and that the quality of provision is subject to regular and effective self-evaluation. The Headteacher will ensure that teaching is age-appropriate, delivered in ways that are accessible to all pupils with SEND and that the subjects are resourced, staffed, and timetabled appropriately. They will ensure that teaching delivered by any external organisation is age-appropriate and accessible for pupils and will liaise with parents regarding any concerns or opinions regarding RSE and Health Education provision and will manage parental requests for withdrawal of pupils from non-statutory, non-science components of RSE.

4.2 Staff

Teachers of RSE and Health Education will ensure that they are up to date with academy policy and curriculum requirements regarding sex education and will attend and engage in professional development training. Teachers will encourage pupils to communicate concerns regarding their social, personal, and emotional development in confidence, listen to their needs and support them seriously. If a pupil comes to a member of staff with an issue that the member of staff feels they are not able to deal with alone, they will take this concern to their line-manager.

4.3 Parents

The Academy expects parents to share the responsibility of sex education and support their children's personal, social, and emotional development. We encourage parents to create an open home environment where pupils can engage, discuss, and continue to learn about matters that have been raised through academy PSHEE. Parents are also encouraged to seek additional support in this from the academy where they feel it is needed.

4.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to attend sex education classes that are in their academy timetable and take them seriously. Although they are not assessed through examination, these classes are still a very important part of the curriculum and a tool to aid personal development and the academy expects pupils to recognise this.

Pupils should support one another with issues that arise through RSE. Listening in class, being considerate of other people's feelings and beliefs. Complying with confidentiality rules that are set in class are key to effective provision. Pupils who regularly fail to follow these standards of behaviour will be dealt with under the **academy behaviour policy**. This policy can be found on the Haven High Academy website.

We also hope that pupils will feel comfortable to talk to a member of staff, in confidence, regarding any concerns they have in academy related to relationships, sex education or otherwise.

5. Implementation and curriculum

It is important that the Academy implement the Relationships, Sex and Health policy consistently throughout the Academy and provide effective provision throughout classrooms. We encourage teachers to provide classes that are specific to the needs of the pupils in that class, and responsive to their behaviour and development.

Through this aspect of our curriculum, we aim to explore different attitudes, values, and social labels, and develop skills that will enable our pupils to make informed decisions regarding RSE and Health Education. It is important that pupils know the difference between fact, opinion, and belief.

The RSE, Relationships and Health Education will be delivered in Social Studies will build on the foundation of the RSE delivered in primary academy. By the end of secondary academy, the Academy expects pupils to know the information set out at Appendix 1.

The Academy wishes to promote pupils' health and well-being by encouraging self-control, their ability to self-regulate and strategies for doing so. This will enable pupils to become confident in their ability to achieve well and persevere even when they encounter setbacks or when their goals are distant, and to respond calmly and rationally to setbacks and challenges. The Academy believes that an integrated, whole-academy approach to the teaching and promotion of health and wellbeing will have a positive impact on behaviour and attainment. Health Education will be delivered within science, ICT, Physical education (PE) and Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE).

By the end of their secondary education the Academy expects pupils to know the information set out at Appendix 2.

5.1 Dealing with difficult questions

Staff training will include sessions on how to deal with difficult questions. There may still be times when staff are faced with a difficult question in class that they feel uncomfortable or ill equipped to answer. In this case, they may wish to put the question to one side and seek advice from the PSHEE lead or Head of Year.

Ground rules in class are essential when discussing sensitive subject matter. Some strategies staff may use to support this might be:

- an anonymous question box: this will enable pupils to feel more comfortable to ask questions without being identified.
- making the classroom a zone of silence; this means that whatever is discussed in the classroom stays in the classroom and should not be brought up at any other time. We hope this will give pupils the sense that they are in a safe zone to speak freely about sex and relationships.

5.2 Pupils with special educational needs

The Academy works hard to ensure that all aspects of the academy curriculum are inclusive and support the needs of pupils of all ranges of abilities. Staff should differentiate lessons to ensure that all members of the class can access the information fully, and this is no different when it comes to RSE and health education.

The Academy will use a variety of different strategies to ensure that all pupils have access to the same information. Some of these include:

- interactive teaching methods e.g., contraceptive card game
- use of expert guest speakers
- practical activities
- using DVDs or video
- group and paired activities.

6. Withdrawal from RSE

The Academy hopes that parents will feel comfortable with, and understand the importance of, the education provided to their children as described in this policy.

Parents of children in secondary academies have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of the sex education aspects of RSE.

Before withdrawing or making a request, the Academy strongly urges parents to carefully consider their decision as sex education is a vital part of the academy curriculum and supports child development. Parents cannot withdraw their child from Relationships or Health Education or the elements on human growth and reproduction which fall under Academy's Science curriculum.

Any parent wishing to withdraw their child from sex education should put their request in writing and send it to the Head of Humanities who will arrange a meeting to discuss their concerns. Once those discussions have taken place, except in exceptional circumstances, the academy will respect the parents' request to withdraw the child, up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. After that point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the academy will make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms.

If a pupil is excused from sex education the academy will ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

7. Complaints

Parents or carers who have complaints or concerns regarding the RSE curriculum should contact the academy and follow the Trust complaints policy.

8. Equal opportunities

The Academy has duties under the Equalities Act 2010 to ensure that pupils are not discriminated against because of their sex, race, disabilities, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment or pregnancy or maternity. [RSE or Relationships] and Health Education lessons provide a good background for talking openly and freely about the diversity of personal, social, and sexual preferences. Prejudiced views will be challenged, and equality promoted. Any bullying that relates to sexual behaviour or perceived sexual orientation will be dealt with swiftly and seriously. This is the case for bullying of any kind and the procedures regarding this are outlined in the **academy's behaviour policy**. This policy can be accessed on the Haven high Academy website.

9. Safeguarding and confidentiality

We hope to provide a safe and supportive *Academy community* where pupils feel comfortable seeking help and guidance on anything that may be concerning them about life either at academy or at home. Training around confidentiality will be provided to all teachers.

It may be the case that discussion around what is acceptable and not acceptable in relationships may lead to the disclosure of a child protection issue. If this is the case, the academy's **child protection and safeguarding procedure** will be followed. This policy can be accessed on the Haven High Academy website.

If a staff member is approached by a pupil under 16 who is having, or is contemplating having sexual intercourse, the teacher should:

- Ensure that the pupil is accessing all the contraceptive and sexual health advice available and understands the risks of being sexually active.
- Encourage the pupil to talk to their parent or carer. Pupils may feel that they are more comfortable bringing these issues to a teacher they trust, but it is important that children and their parents have open and trusting relationships when it comes to sexual health and the academy will encourage this as much as possible.
- Decide whether there is a child protection issue. This may be the case if the teacher is concerned that there is coercion or abuse involved. If a member of staff is informed that a pupil under 13 is having, or is contemplating having sexual intercourse, this will be dealt with under child protection procedures.

Pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable to exploitation and less able to protect themselves from harmful influences. If staff are concerned that this is the case, they should seek support from the Designated Safeguarding Lead to decide what is in the best interest of the child.

9.1 Support for pregnant teenagers and young fathers

In cases involving pregnant teenagers and/or young fathers, the appropriate pastoral team, including the Head of Year, Designated Safeguarding Lead, SEN Co-ordinator and Headteacher will meet with the expectant parents and their parents/carers to ensure that appropriate support and risk management are in place.

10. Monitoring, review, and evaluation

The educational and personal needs of our pupils develop in line with varying societal pressures and economic change. Our aim is to provide RSE that is relevant and tailored to meet the needs of our pupils, depending on their age and stage of personal development. For this reason, we review the RSE curriculum yearly and will inform parents of any revisions to the Academy policy or sex education curriculum.

We aim to monitor the effectiveness of our sex education provision through:

- Yearly feedback from pupils
- Yearly feedback from parents
- feedback from staff
- curriculum review.

The Academy will review this policy annually, evaluating its effectiveness by taking into account feedback from pupils, staff and parents, as well as what has come to light through classroom observations and information we receive from national reports and curriculum reviews.

11. Support

We hope that pupils will feel safe in the academy environment to talk to any member of staff in confidence about any areas of concern regarding their personal, social, and emotional development, including matters raised by or relating to sex and relationships education. We promote the academy ethos as one of inclusion and acceptance throughout all areas of academy activity and hope that pupils respond to this by feeling comfortable to ask questions and continue their learning both in and outside of the classroom.

This policy will be reviewed annually

12. Appendices

12.1 Appendix 1 for Secondary RSE: Secondary Stage Curriculum and Outcomes

Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• that there are different types of committed, stable relationships• how these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children• what marriage is, including their legal status – for example, that marriage carries legal rights and protections not available to couples who are cohabiting or who have married, for example, in an unregistered religious ceremony• why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into• the characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships• the roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting• how to determine whether other children, adults or sources of information are trustworthy, judge when a family, friend, intimate or other relationship is unsafe (and to recognise this in others' relationships), how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed
Respectful relationships, including friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the characteristics of positive and healthy friendships, in all contexts including online, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ trust, respect, honesty, kindness, generosity, boundaries, privacy, consent, and the management of conflict○ reconciliation and ending relationships, this includes different (non-sexual) types of relationship• practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships• how stereotypes, in particular stereotypes based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or disability, can cause damage (for example, how they might normalise non-consensual behaviour or encourage prejudice)• that in academy and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including people in positions of authority and due tolerance of other people's beliefs• about different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help• how to recognise an abusive relationship, including coercive and controlling behaviour• that some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control• what constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and that everyone is unique and equal
Online and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> their rights, responsibilities, and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online about online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them what to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online the impact of viewing harmful content that specifically sexually explicit material, for example pornography, presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners that sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail how information and data is generated, collected, shared, and used online
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM, and how these can affect current and future relationships how people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn, in all contexts, including online
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> how to recognise the characteristics and positive aspects of healthy one-to-one intimate relationships, which include mutual respect, consent, loyalty, trust, shared interests and outlook, sex, and friendship that all aspects of health can be affected by choices they make in sex and relationships, positively or negatively, for example physical, emotional, mental, sexual, and reproductive health and wellbeing the facts about reproductive health, including fertility and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women and menopause that there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure, and not pressurising others that they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex the facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy, and options available the facts around pregnancy including miscarriage that there are choices in relation to pregnancy (with medically and legally accurate, impartial information on all options, including keeping the baby, adoption, abortion and where to get further help)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• how the different sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV and AIDs, are transmitted, how risk can be reduced through safer sex (including through condom use) and the importance of and facts about testing• about the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment• how the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour• how to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment
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The Academy's curriculum for science covers:

Key Stage 3

- reproduction in humans (as an example of a mammal), including the structure and function of the male and female reproductive systems, menstrual cycle (without details of hormones), gametes, fertilisation, gestation, and birth, to include the effect of maternal lifestyle on the foetus through the placenta, and
- reproduction in plants, including flower structure, wind and insect pollination, fertilisation, seed and fruit formation and dispersal, including quantitative investigation of some dispersal mechanisms.

Key stage 4

- hormones in human reproduction, hormonal, and non-hormonal methods of contraception,
- communicable diseases including sexually transmitted infections in humans (including HIV/AIDs), and
- genes and sex determination in humans.

12.2 Appendix 2: Health Education Secondary Stage Curriculum and Outcomes

<p><i>Mental wellbeing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to talk about their emotions accurately and sensitively, using appropriate vocabulary • that happiness is linked to being connected to others • how to recognise the early signs of mental wellbeing concerns • common types of mental ill health (e.g., anxiety and depression) • how to critically evaluate when something they do or are involved in has a positive or negative effect on their own or others' mental health • the benefits and importance of physical exercise, time outdoors, community participation and voluntary and service-based activities on mental wellbeing and happiness
<p><i>Internet safety and harms</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the similarities and differences between the online world and the physical world, including: the impact of unhealthy or obsessive comparison with others online (including through setting unrealistic expectations for body image), how people may curate a specific image of their life online, over-reliance on online relationships including social media, the risks related to online gambling including the accumulation of debt, how advertising and information is targeted at them and how to be a discerning consumer of information online • how to identify harmful behaviours online (including bullying, abuse, or harassment) and how to report, or find support, if they have been affected by those behaviours
<p><i>Physical health and fitness</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the positive associations between physical activity and promotion of mental wellbeing, including as an approach to combat stress • the characteristics and evidence of what constitutes a healthy lifestyle, maintaining a healthy weight, including the links between an inactive lifestyle and ill health, including cancer and cardio-vascular ill-health • about the science relating to blood, organ, and stem cell donation
<p><i>Healthy eating</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to maintain healthy eating and the links between a poor diet and health risks, including tooth decay and cancer
<p><i>Drugs, alcohol, and tobacco</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the facts about legal and illegal drugs and their associated risks, including the link between drug use, and the associated risks, including the link to serious mental health conditions • the law relating to the supply and possession of illegal substances

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the physical and psychological risks associated with alcohol consumption and what constitutes low risk alcohol consumption in adulthood • the physical and psychological consequences of addiction, including alcohol dependency • awareness of the dangers of drugs which are prescribed but still present serious health risks • the facts about the harms from smoking tobacco (particularly the link to lung cancer), the benefits of quitting and how to access support to do so
<i>Health and prevention</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about personal hygiene, germs including bacteria, viruses, how they are spread, treatment and prevention of infection, and about antibiotics • about dental health and the benefits of good oral hygiene and dental flossing, including healthy eating and regular check-ups at the dentist • (Late secondary) the benefits of regular self-examination and screening • the facts and science relating to immunisation and vaccination • the importance of sufficient good quality sleep for good health and how a lack of sleep can affect weight, mood and ability to learn
<i>Basic first aid</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic treatment for common injuries • life-saving skills, including how to administer CPR • the purpose of defibrillators and when one might be needed
<i>Changing adolescent body</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key facts about puberty, the changing adolescent body and menstrual wellbeing • the main changes which take place in males and females, and the implications for emotional and physical health