



Sex and Relationships Policy for **Church Schools** **September 2018**

Vision Statement:

“Be Extraordinary”

Mission Statement:

We believe that young people achieve their fullest potential when they have a vision of everything their lives could become. The Bible (John 10:10) quotes Jesus as saying, “I have come that they may have life and may have it in all its fullness”. As academies, we commit ourselves to inspiring our students, and equipping them with the resilience and determination to unlock their unique gifts and realise their highest aspirations. We aim to achieve this through following distinctively Christian principles, and focusing on four key areas, service, achievement, leadership and teamwork.

Reviewed and approved by Sentamu Academy Learning Trust Board of Directors on 8 October 2018

The next 'Period of Review' will be October 2020

Sentamu Academy Learning Trust

It is recognised that the government is currently consulting on its policy for relationships and sex education statutory guidance, which on the current schedule and is due to be implemented in September 2020.

However, in the interim, SALT's relationships and sex education policy takes full notice of the principles contained in the following legislation and policies, as well as guidance from the National Society, specifically:

- The Equality Act 2010;
- Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2018;
- Education for a connected world;
- Sexual violence & sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges; and
- The Church of England Education Office Response to the DfE's call for evidence.

This policy will be reviewed formally when we receive the DfE's statutory guidance on relationships and sex education.

Introduction

Relationships and sex are good gifts of God and should bring joy

Relationships and Sex education is part of the personal, social and health education curriculum in our school.

We will teach within a framework of a Christian Vision of the purpose education as bringing "Life in all its Fullness"¹. The importance of regarding the full unique sanctity of ourselves and others will underpin our relationships education, as will the Christian understanding that sex is a gift of God as part of creation.

Whilst we use sex education to inform young people about sexual issues, we do this with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows students to ask and explore moral questions. Sensitivity and respect should be shown to all young people when teaching about personal relationships and sex education and RSE should be taught in a way that ensures that there is an inclusion of all children and young people whatever their personal circumstances.

Context

All relationships and sex education in a Church of England school should be set in a context which is consistent with the school's Christian ethos and values.

- RSE should be based on inclusive Christian principles and values, emphasising dignity and respect, compassion, loving care and forgiveness.
- RSE should be taught in the light of the belief in the absolute worth of all people and the unconditional infinite love of God.
- RSE should reflect that sex is a gift from God as part of creation: a human longing for an intimate union.
- RSE should be sensitive to the circumstances of all children and be mindful of the variety of expressions of family life in our culture, yet it should also uphold the

¹ John 10:10

- Christian values regarding relationships and marriage.
- Issues regarding human sexuality should be addressed openly and sensitively.
- The exploration of reproduction and sexual behaviour within the science curriculum should stand alongside the exploration of relationships, values and morals and Christian belief.
- Pupils will be encouraged to develop the self-esteem be able to protect themselves from harm and possible sexual exploitation.

Whilst pupils/students are given the opportunity to explore their own attitudes, values and beliefs and to develop an individual moral code that will guide their actions, this is exercised within an understanding of the right of people to hold their own views within a framework of respect for others.

Aims and Objectives

We teach young people about:

- The physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults;
- The way humans reproduce;
- Respect for their own bodies and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term and loving relationship;
- The importance of marriage and family life;
- Moral questions;
- Relationship issues;
- Respect for the views of other people;
- What they should do if they are worried about any sexual matters.

Principles

Relationships and sex education should be based on the following principles:

- The sanctity of marriage is an important belief in Christian teaching and practice.
- Children/ Young people should learn the significance of marriage, long-term committed relationships and stable family groupings as key building blocks of community and society.
- Sex education includes learning about physical and emotional development.
- Children/Young people will be taught the cultural and religious differences about matters of sexuality.
- Sex education is part of a wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education process.
- Children/Young people should be made aware of the way in which advertising and the media and pornography influences their views about sexuality.
- Children/Young people should be made more aware of the spiritual dimensions and joys of intimacy.
- Children/Young people should be taught to have respect for their own and other people's bodies.
- Children/Young people should learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity.
- Children/Young people should learn that some people choose not to engage in sexual activity and that this choice should be respected and valued as a response to the gift of faith.
- Young people should be taught to understand the power of sexual desire.
- Children/ Young people should be made aware that sex can be used compulsively, competitively and destructively.

- Children/Young people need to learn the importance of protecting themselves and of self-control.
- Children/Young people should be made aware of God's forgiveness and that there is always a way back.
- Children/Young people should learn that it is joyous and life-enhancing to build positive relationships that involve trust and respect.