



Manchester Communication Academy



Relationship and Sex Education Policy 2020

Created: April 2020

Review: September 2021

1. Aims

The aims of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at Manchester Communication Academy are to:

- › 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.
- › MCA's vision highlights the focus of our students being physically, socially, emotionally safe and healthy encompassed within our values of Trustworthy, Helpful, Inspiring, Straight forward and Heart providing high quality education and opportunities for all.

2. Statutory requirements

As a secondary academy school we must provide RSE to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

In teaching RSE, we are required by our funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At MCA we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff or working group pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

4. Definition

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.

5. Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.



We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within MCA's personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum known as Aspire. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

Pupils also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional from Manchester Brook and Manchester Healthy Schools with support of the Form Tutor. Lessons are planned to suit the needs of the MCA students using guidance from IMatter Resources.

RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

For more information about our RSE curriculum, see Appendices 1 and 2.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances (families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures) along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

All pupils will be given access to the curriculum and where SEND support is required this will be provided on consultation with the SENCo. Provisions could be:

- Smaller group work sessions.
- Bespoke sessions with students
- 1-2-1 follow up conversations

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The governing board

The governing board will approve the RSE policy, and hold the Principal to account for its implementation with the support of the Director of Health and Wellbeing.

7.2 The Principal

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE. This information will be provide by the Director of Health and Wellbeing. (see section 8).

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE



- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Director of Health and Wellbeing.

The responsibility of teaching RSE in MCA is the Form Tutor with the support of Health Professionals and the Director of Health and Wellbeing.

7.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory 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 using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the Director of Health and Wellbeing to be approved by the Assistant Principal of Safeguarding.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Assistant Principal of Safeguarding and Director of Health and Wellbeing will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

9. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Director of Health and Wellbeing will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE. This support is received from Manchester Healthy Schools and Brook.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by Sarah Wilcock (Director of Health and Wellbeing) through:

- Quality Assurance
- Planning Scrutinises
- Learning Walks

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by form tutors as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by Sarah Wilcock – Director of Health and Wellbeing annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by Principal.



Appendix 1: Curriculum map

Relationships and sex education curriculum map

YEAR GROUP	TERM	SUBJECT	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
Year 7	Autumn	Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cell Structure and Reproduction – Human Reproduction - A fundamental understanding of the human anatomy to develop interest and intrigue into science as it's something familiar to them. 	Edexcel
Year 8	Various	Aspire	<p>Relationship and Sex Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is Sex ➤ Healthy Relationships ➤ Sexting ➤ LGBT ➤ STI's ➤ Contraception 	<p>Manchester Brook</p> <p>Manchester Healthy School – IMatter</p> <p>PSHE Association</p> <p>Hope Threate Group</p>

YEAR GROUP	TERM	SUBJECT	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
Year 9	Autumn	Science	<p>Biology Topic 1,2 and 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cells - Describe the adaptations of sperm, egg and cilia cells. ➤ Mitosis - State the order of the stages of mitosis using a pneumonic (premiership matches are terrifically corrupt). Be able to look at images of mitosis happening in cells and identify the stage of mitosis. State that interphase happens before mitosis and that the DNA is replicated and more organelles are made because the cell is about to be split in two. State the characteristics of cells produced by mitosis. State that cancer is uncontrolled cell division/mitosis. ➤ DNA and Alleles – Structure and Chromosomes - Describe how the sex of offspring is determined at fertilisation, using genetic diagrams. ➤ Variation - Describe the causes of variation that influence phenotype including genetic variation – different characteristics as a result of mutation and sexual reproduction ➤ Health – Describes the spreads of diseases and common infections. Explain how sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are spread and how this spread can be reduced or prevented, including: Chlamydia (bacteria) and HIV (virus). 	Edexcel
Year 10	Various	Aspire	<p>Relationship and Sex Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sex ➤ Healthy Relationships/ Abuse ➤ Reasons for Sex ➤ LGBT ➤ STI's ➤ Contraception 	<p>Manchester Brook</p> <p>Manchester Healthy School – IMatter</p> <p>PSHE Association</p>



YEAR GROUP	TERM	SUBJECT	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS	RESOURCES
All Years	Various (See Academy website for exact dates)	Safeguarding Assemblies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ FGM ➤ CSE ➤ Consent ➤ Forced Marriage ➤ Period Poverty ➤ Domestic Violence 	Manchester Brook – Period Poverty Government Guidance Afruka GM Police Mad Threate Odd Arts Footlights PSHE Association



Appendix 2: By the end of secondary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
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 e.g. 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); and, 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) including: 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 (e.g. how they might normalise non-consensual behaviour or encourage prejudice) • That in school 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 • 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 • 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



TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
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 e.g. 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)



TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
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, e.g. 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 • 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) • How the different sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/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



Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Form and Year	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	
Signed:	