



The Shared Learning Trust

THE VALE
ACADEMY

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Policy Title:	Relationships and Sex Education Policy	Owner:	Tanya Knight
Review period:	1 year	Approval by:	Principal
Effective date:	1 st April 2024	Next review date:	1 st April 2025



Introduction

All children at The Vale Academy are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum. We are committed to the development of the whole child, therefore we place Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at the heart of all that we do.

This policy outlines the Intent, Implementation and Impact of how RSE is taught at The Vale Academy. The RSE Policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies: PSHE, SEND, Behaviour, Anti-bully, Safeguarding and The Relationship and Sex Education Guidance – Department of Education.

Intent

Through our curriculum, our school environment and teaching opportunities, we focus on the head, heart and hands. We encourage children to challenge their mind, motivate them to open their hearts and inspire them to be creative. We make sure that our children feel a sense of belonging within their community, including the wider community outside of the academy walls.

RSE gives children essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and nonexploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline. We strive to promote children's self-esteem and emotional and physical well-being and help them to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships.

The overall aim of RSE is to foster a positive notion of lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development, including how to look after physical and mental health. It aims to support the development of self-respect and empathy for others and promotes the development of skills and understanding necessary to manage conflict peaceably and learn how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

Safeguarding

In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education, schools now have a duty to ensure that opportunities are identified to teach Safeguarding. Schools should ensure that children are, taught about safeguarding, including online safety and consider this as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.

Implementation

The Implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all teaching staff.

The school policy for RSE reflects the consensus of opinion of the whole teaching staff and has the full agreement of The Shared Learning Trust Stakeholders.

RSE Framework:

- Learn about relationships; the importance of communication and assertiveness skills including the importance of values such as respect (for self and others), equality, responsibility, care and compassion.
- Reflect upon the importance of stable and loving relationships for family life.
- Reflect upon how to make good, informed and safe choices concerning relationships and healthy lifestyles.
- Be exposed to a range of family units.
- Use the correct scientific vocabulary for all male and female body parts.
- Consider and understand the changes that occur to their bodies, minds and emotions as a consequence of growth from childhood to adulthood.
- Importance of striving to reduce intolerance and discrimination based on sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion and gender.



RSE will not be taught in isolation; it will be embedded through other subject areas such as Computing, Science and during the children's PSHE lessons. We promote RSE as being part of our day-to-day practise, however when some topics that are specific age-related are delivered at a pre-planned point, parents and careers will be informed so they can be involved in supporting their child.

We ensure that all children have equal access to the RSE programme through a thorough process of monitoring, evaluation and assessment, which takes into consideration children's needs, maturity, age, ability and personal circumstances. Class teachers assess children's understanding and progress through formative processes. At the end of the each academic year, class teachers will review the RSE curriculum and pass on any comments to the RSE Leader, Safeguarding Leader and Head of School. As part of effective RSE provision, the RSE policy will be reviewed to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of children, staff and parents and that it is in line with current DfE advice and guidance.

Parental involvement

The Vale Academy is committed to working with parents and careers; we believe that it is important to have the support of parents and the wider community for the PSHE and RSE curriculum. Parents are provided with the opportunity to find out about and discuss the school's curriculum through the RSE information evening, parents' consultation meeting and the school website.

In order to thrive, achieve and believe, children must be at the centre of our curriculum. Pupil voice lies at the heart of our school and the curriculum and opportunities we offer our children mean that they can grow into independent, active and responsible members of our school community playing an active part in decision-making.

Impact

Children at The Vale Academy are confident, polite and considerate to both those familiar to them and those who are not. They have a sound knowledge of what a positive relationship is and how to seek support to safeguard themselves now and in the future. Children practice effective communication and are able to reflect on their own beliefs and understand that other live differently to themselves. Children have the knowledge of the correct scientific language used for both male and female body parts. Children can keep themselves safe online and are able to self-relate their well-being and ask for help when they need support with this. Children leave The Vale Academy well equipped to successfully embrace and enjoy secondary education with a very real view of being an effective and happy contributor in today's world.