

	<b>BICESTER LEARNING ACADEMY TRUST</b>  <b><u>THE COOPER SCHOOL</u></b>  <b><u>Sex and Relationship Education Policy</u></b>			<b>Written by</b>  C Roberts -  (Assistant Headteacher)
	<b>Applicable to:</b>  <b>ALL STAFF &amp; STUDENTS</b>	<b><u>Accountable</u></b>  <b><u>Officers:</u></b>  B Baxter - (Executive Headteacher)	<b><u>Date</u></b>  <b><u>Reviewed:</u></b>  Autumn 2016	<b><u>Date to be</u></b>  <b><u>Reviewed</u></b>  Autumn 2019

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This policy should be read in conjunction with Bicester Learning Academy's s Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

### **What is Sex and Relationship Education (SRE)?**

The PSHE Association states that *'Sex and relationships education is learning about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, relationships, sex, human sexuality and sexual health. Some aspects are taught in science, and others are taught as part of personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE). A comprehensive programme of SRE provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health. It also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline.'*

### **Why is SRE important?**

Children and young people have the right to receive high quality sex and relationship education in order for them to be safe and to enjoy valuable relationships with others. Good quality SRE enables students to feel secure and informed so that they are better able to make positive choices about their relationships. It also enables students to engage in sexual relationships in a safe and healthy way.

We use government guidance from the Department for Education – Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (DfEE, 2000) and supplementary guidance from the PSHE Association – Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **The school's aims for our Sex and Relationship Education**

We aim to

- Teach our students about how to be safe within their relationships in order to help prevent them being vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,
- Keep up to date with the use of technology such as online apps to help our students to keep themselves safe online and to use new technology within the framework of the law,
- Teach within the context of current legislation and guidelines for effective SRE,
- Ensure that our teaching of SRE is enriching, enjoyable and effective,

- Give our students the essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships,
- Encourage students to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications and risks of certain types of behaviour.

### **How do we teach SRE at The Cooper School?**

- **PSHE lessons in Years 7 and Years 8:**

Our Year 7s and Year 8s follow a PSHE programme of fortnightly lessons and this includes a module of SRE over 4 lessons. The following topics are covered:

Lesson 1: What is a healthy relationship?

Lesson 2: Different sexual or gender orientations

Lesson 3: Puberty and changes to your body

Lesson 4: What makes sex safe?

This PSHE programme also includes an 'e-safety' module which focuses on online safety, sexting, grooming and the impact of pornography and a module which focuses on British Values and extremism which covers individual values, equality and 'honour-based' violence.

- **Science Curriculum**

- **KS3**

We cover 'Cells and Reproduction' with Year 7; this includes looking at cellular structure, cellular division and sexual reproduction in plants and mammals (and this is taught through humans as a particular example);

- **KS4**

We look at growth and development and in particular at cloning, IVF and PGD. The curriculum also looks at STIs and touches on different forms of contraception.

- **PE Curriculum**

The PE curriculum gives opportunities for students to consider healthy lifestyles and think about how body confidence can affect their self-esteem.

- **RE Curriculum**

During RE students learn about contraception and different views about family planning and preventing pregnancy. We also look at families and relationships and this includes a focus on marriage and divorce as well as views about same-sex relationships.

- **External visitors**

We use external visitors to support our SRE programme for all year groups; we use professional companies and groups who have a good reputation for delivering valuable and appropriate performances. An example of this is our annual showing to Year 8 of '*Chelsea's Choice*' about Child Sexual Exploitation by AlterEgos.

- **School Nurse**

Our school nurse offers a confidential service to all students via either drop-in, self-referral or by referral from a member of the student's house team or Post-16 tutor. The school nurse is able to provide condoms and other contraceptive devices, in line with usual strict NHS guidelines, as well as offering pregnancy tests and performing tests for STIs. She is employed by Oxford Health NHS

Foundation Trust and is subject to their normal rules for working with young people. The School Nurse can be contacted via the school's main telephone number.

- **Small group work**

At certain times, the school offers small bespoke work which is led either by the school nurse, the school counsellor or by a member of the Bicester Early Intervention Hub.

- **Assembly Programme**

Our assembly programme aims to cover many areas of SRE including body image and how the media adds to lack of body confidence and low self-esteem, as well as e-safety sessions which are aimed at the particular needs of each year group.

### **Child abuse and the school's duty of care**

Our staff will always follow up concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing by using the school's usual safeguarding procedures.

Children will be advised to not talk about personal circumstances in whole class situations but instead will be reminded to speak to their Student Support Manager if anything triggers a response for them.

### **Do parents have the right to withdraw their child from SRE?**

Yes, parents do have the right to withdraw their child from some or all of SRE (apart from the sex education which is covered in science lessons) however it is very rare for parents to exercise this right. Parents should write a letter to the Headteacher if they would like to withdraw their child from any aspect of SRE.

We inform parents about the SRE that their child is going to be participating in and we welcome contributions from parents to help inform our SRE policy and practices to ensure both are appropriate for the school's community.

### **Responsibilities in relationship to this policy**

The Headteacher and Governing Body fully support this policy and will ensure that the aims and objectives of the SRE policy are met.

<b>Policy/Procedure Title</b>	<b>Sex &amp; Relationship Education Policy</b>
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<b>Author (Name/Department)</b>	<b>C Roberts – Assistant Headteacher</b>
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