

Sex and Relationship Education Policy
Thomas Deacon Academy, Queens Gardens, Peterborough, PE1 2UW

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

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Prepared: Kate Booth, Lead Teacher of PD 26th March 2021

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Sex and Relationship Education Policy, Thomas Deacon Academy

1. AIMS

1.1 The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at our school 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.

2. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Thomas Deacon Academy Junior:

As a Junior school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

Department for Education statutory guidance states that from September 2020, all schools must deliver relationships education in primary schools, although the parental right to withdraw pupils from RSE remains in place. (See section 7)

We do not have to follow the National Curriculum, but we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum including requirements to teach science, which would include the elements of sex education, contained in the science curriculum.

Should you require more information please refer to our funding agreement and articles of association further information. These can be found on the Thomas Deacon Academy Trust Website – Key Documents- Supplementary Funding Agreements

2.2 Thomas Deacon Academy:

Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 the government committed to making Relationships Education statutory in all secondary schools, including local authority-maintained schools, academies, free schools and independent schools.

As a secondary academy, we must provide RSE to all pupils as referenced in the Department for Education statutory guidance 2019.

Department for Education statutory guidance states that from September 2020, all secondary schools must deliver relationships and sex education. The parental right to withdraw pupils from RSE remains in secondary education, for aspects of sex education which are not part of the Science curriculum. (See section 7)

At Thomas Deacon Academy we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

Should you require more information please refer to our funding agreement and articles of association further information. These can be found on the Thomas Deacon Academy Trust Website – Key Documents- Supplementary Funding Agreements.

3 POLICY DEVELOPMENT

3.1 This policy has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance.
2. Staff consultation – staff are given the opportunity to look at the policy and SRE curriculum and make recommendations.
3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties are invited to consult.
4. Pupil consultation – pupils are given an opportunity to feedback on the SRE curriculum.
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

4 DEFINITION

Thomas Deacon Academy is fully committed to ensuring every student receives a comprehensive understanding of relationships, sex, and health education. When considering relationship and sex education we are promoting a lifelong learning about emotional, social, and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity, and personal identity. This involves acquiring information, developing skills, and

informing positive beliefs, values, and attitudes. TDA is particularly keen to ensure that students can make informed choices regarding issues related to their physical and emotional health.

RSE at Thomas Deacon Academy involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values.

RSE at Thomas Deacon Academy is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5 CURRICULUM

Thomas Deacon Academy Junior:

Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me.
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe
- RSE – Relationships between adults and how babies are made.

Thomas Deacon Academy:

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.

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).

For a detailed breakdown of our RSE curriculum, see [Appendix 1](#)

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The Academy Committee:

The governing board will approve the RSE policy and hold the headteacher to account for its delivery.

6.2 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/non-science] components of RSE (see section 7).

6.3 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/non-science] 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 headteacher. Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The subject Lead 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.

Subject Lead	Supported by	Subject delivered by	Staff support
Kate Booth	Colm McCloskey – Head of Department Martin Paine - DSL	Form tutors	Yearly inset and individual training as requested/required. Learning walks and quality assurance completed termly. Guides and written support available to all staff.

7.0 Parental right to withdrawal from RSE

Section 405 of the Education Act 1996 enables parents/carers to withdraw their children from sex education other than the sex education that is in the National Curriculum (such as the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are essential elements of National Curriculum Science). If parents/carers wish to withdraw their child from this aspect of education, they should arrange to meet with their child's Head of Year in the first instance.

7.1 In primary education from September 2020:

- Parents **will not** be able to withdraw their children from any aspect of Relationships Education or Health Education (which includes learning about the changing adolescent body and puberty).
- Parents **will** be able to withdraw their children from any aspects of Sex Education other than those which are part of the science curriculum. (Note that sex education will not be statutory in primary schools, however the new statutory guidance makes clear that schools should still provide a programme of age-appropriate sex education)
- Head teachers in primary schools must grant requests to withdraw a pupil from sex education, other than where it is part of the science curriculum.
- Where pupils are withdrawn from sex education, schools should document the process and will have to 'ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.'

7.2 In secondary education from September 2020:

- Parents **will not** be able to withdraw their child from any aspect of Relationships Education or Health Education.
- Parents **will be** able to withdraw their child (following discussion with the school) from any or all aspects of Sex Education, other than those which are part of the science curriculum, up to and until three terms before the age of 16.
- After that point, the guidance states that 'if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should make arrangements to provide the child with sex education during one of those terms.'
- Where pupils are withdrawn from sex education, schools should document the process and will have to 'ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.'