



Gulval School Sex and Relationships Education Policy

September 2014

Policy Review Audit

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1. Mission Statement

Adventure Learning Academy Trust (ALAT) brings a new energy and approach to providing the best education for our pupils. Through proven practices, ALAT will transform the learning of pupils, raise standards and provide the highest quality learning environments, enabling pupils and teaching staff to thrive and be the best. ALAT's aim is to break down the barriers that limit educational progress. We do this through adopting a personal learning pathway for every child – one that takes account of individual needs, aspirations and talents.

ALAT's values:

Learn	Grow	Prosper
Provide the best education for every pupil.	Grow our pupils' futures.	Lead the way in education.
Ensure the highest quality teaching and learning.	Develop the best teaching staff.	Realise the opportunities.
Work with the family, parent or carer.	Provide the best learning environment and supporting technology.	Be connected to the community.

2. Introduction

This policy covers the ALAT Primary and Secondary academy's approach to the teaching of Sex and Relationships Education.

Like all educational providers, the ALAT academy must have regard to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance, published in 2000. The current statutory provisions on sex education are contained in sections 403 and 405 of the Education Act 1996 as amended. The Government's Education White Paper, The Importance of Teaching, published in November 2010, stated, 'Children need high-quality sex and relationships education so they can make wise and informed choices'.

The ALAT academy subscribes to this.

Section 2.1 of the National Curriculum Framework (2013) states that all pupils should be offered the opportunity of receiving a comprehensive, well-planned programme of sex education during their school careers through a curriculum which:

- 'Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at school and of society; and
- Prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.'

This policy will ensure that the ALAT academy meets the statutory requirements of the teaching of sex and relationships education which are listed below:

- To promote the well-being of their pupils
- To ensure that pupils learn of the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children and that they are protected from unsuitable teaching and materials
- To provide education which includes information about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (Education Act 2002)

- Requirements of SRE within the National Curriculum Science Order for all phases. This includes the biological aspects of naming body parts, puberty, reproduction and sexually transmitted infections.

3. Aims and Objectives

The ALAT academy's overarching aim and objectives for our pupils is that they acquire information, develop skills and form positive beliefs, values and attitudes to sex and relationships. Our policy is intended to support young people through promoting their physical, emotional, cultural and moral development.

The ALAT academy defines sex and relationships education as education which allows young people to learn to respect themselves and others as they move with confidence towards adolescence and into the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It is about understanding of the importance to family life of stable loving relationships, respect, love and care.

The policy will ensure the education at the ALAT academy includes clear factual, evidence based information, specific reference to the physical changes with adolescence, opportunity to consider the nature of relationships, time to explore their own beliefs and responses to the responsibilities and opportunities of adulthood. It will allow pupils to understand the diversity of relationships and the nature of loving, respectful relationships.

We believe it is important to address this area of the curriculum to ensure that young people grow to adulthood with values and attitudes, knowledge and understanding and a set of personal skills which will enable them to enjoy the positive benefits of loving, rewarding and responsible relationships. Pupils will be informed and comfortable with the changes during puberty and remain sexually healthy and emotionally safe.

Young people are exposed to sexual imagery and content in a wide array of media including adverts, the internet, video games, mobile phones, pop songs, TV and magazines. These media often present a distorted and inaccurate view of sex and relationships, and provide increasingly explicit images of sex and sexuality. Some young people will use the new technology to bully and intimidate others or to place themselves in compromising positions e.g. send revealing photos of themselves to girl or boy friends. We believe that through an effective SRE policy, the ALAT academy can equip our pupils with the values, skills and knowledge to understand and deal appropriately with these social and cultural pressures.

The ALAT academy will provide a safe place for our pupils to make sense of the information they have picked up from the media and the myths. All young people should be able to move into adulthood fully informed and having had the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and responses in a safe and impartial environment.

4. The ALAT academy aims to:

Provide a worthwhile educational experience for all its pupils which will present opportunities:

- to help pupils to understand the physical changes that occur in puberty
- to help pupils to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and for others, acceptance of responsibility, sensitivity towards the needs and views of others, loyalty and fidelity
- to enable pupils to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications, and risks, of certain types of behaviour and to accept that both sexes should behave responsibly in sexual matters
- to support the personal development and social skills of the pupils
- to ensure that pupils have an understanding of their own and others' sexuality
- to enjoy relationships based upon mutual respect and responsibility which are free from abuse and exploitation

- to provide information and knowledge which will counteract prejudice and ignorance
- to develop an understanding of risk and to promote strategies for personal safety
- to enable pupils to be aware of the sources of help and to acquire the skills and confidence to use them.

A confidentiality policy developed in consultation with parents, young people and governors, will support SRE by setting out clear boundaries for pupils and parents about the sharing of information and how to make the learning environment safe. Further information about these topics can be found in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

5. The Role of Parents

Parents play a vital role in providing the building blocks for healthy and fulfilling social and personal relationships while protecting their children and young people from harm. The ALAT academy will expect to work in partnership with parents in instilling values but have a clear role in giving young people accurate information and helping them to develop the skills they need to make safe and responsible choices.

Parents and carers are valuable advocates for improving SRE. They will be consulted on the academy SRE policy, particularly when the policy is being reviewed. We may invite parents to discuss the policy at a parents evening, by letter or email or by meeting the SRE Coordinator or Principal personally.

Section 405 of the Education Act 1996 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the academy's programme of sex education, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order. It is realised that, under exceptional circumstances, a very small number of parents may wish to exclude their children from this programme. In this case, such parents should write to the Principal, stating their objections. The schemes of work contained which are being developed will enable parents to estimate the point at which specific aspects of sex education will be delivered to their child.

We accept that pupils and adults in our academy may hold very different religious and cultural beliefs about SRE. We will encourage consultation and discussion with parents and community leaders to ensure we consider cultural, religious and linguistic needs in the development and review of our SRE policy and curriculum.

6. What will be taught

The ALAT academy Sex Education Policy is based on an understanding that positive, caring environments are essential for the building of self-confidence and the development of a good self-image and that individuals are in charge of and responsible for their own bodies.

The ALAT academy will provide knowledge about the processes of reproduction and the nature of sexuality and relationships. It will encourage the acquisition of skills and attitudes which allow pupils to manage their relationships in a responsible and healthy manner. In an international community, due consideration will be given to the different religions, cultures and traditions from which pupils come. For certain aspects, boys and girls may be taught separately.

ALAT academies are respectful of cultural, family, and community diversity and will provide parents and cares with appropriate information on topics to be discussed and the language to be used.

At the end of the sex and relationship programmes pupils will know and understand:

- the processes of reproduction and the nature of sexuality
- how to manage their own relationships and develop responsible and healthy lifestyles avoiding risk taking behaviours

- that they have a right to current and up to date information explained in a sensitive and age appropriate way and to have respect for and control over their own bodies
- that they have a responsibility for care and respect in relationships, for their own and other's wellbeing and appreciate the diverse nature of sexuality.

Sex and relationships education at the ALAT academy is taught in a cross curricular way through Biology, Personal, Social and Health Education, with assistance from outside agencies best placed to give impartial and professional information. In an age appropriate way, a variety of sensitive issues will inevitably be explored. It is recognised that an individual's sexuality is a highly personal matter. It is intended that pupils will be given up-to-date information on a wide variety of contraceptive methods (age and context appropriate).

Teaching strategies include interactive learning methods that support participation and encourage reflection. There is specialist and one-to-one support available to answer questions of a personal nature and to inform pupils about sources of help and advice.

Pupils will be assessed through a variety of means; attitudinal surveys will be conducted at given points, their acquisition of knowledge will be assessed through the National Curriculum subjects and their understanding will be assessed throughout the sessions by staff. External agencies will be used for specialist teaching and their assessment will be used to ensure pupils make progress in their understanding in this area.

The ALAT academy will balance learning to allow pupils to make choices and promoting what are acceptable choices within a framework about respect, care and wellbeing. We will present a range of viewpoints on sensitive issues; this is not incompatible with the overarching values of the ALAT academy.

We will present impartial scientific information and the legal position of such things as

- Forced marriage¹
- Female genital mutilation¹
- Abortion¹.

The programme of sex and relationships education will be taught by the academy staff, who will receive appropriate training to do so, supported by specialist professionals from outside agencies as mentioned above.

7. Advice to Individual Pupils

It is understood that it is important to distinguish between the ALAT academy's function of providing education generally about sexual matters and the giving of advice to individual pupils on these issues. Good teachers have always taken a pastoral interest in the welfare and well-being of their pupils. It is also understood that this function should never trespass on the proper exercise of parental rights and responsibilities. It is understood that particular care must be exercised in relation to giving contraceptive advice to pupils under the age of sixteen, for whom sexual intercourse is unlawful.

Where the circumstances are such as to lead the member of staff to believe that the pupil has embarked upon, or is contemplating, a course of conduct which is likely to place him or her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, the member of staff has the responsibility to ensure that the pupil is aware of the implications and is urged to seek advice. If we believe a pupil is at risk we will treat the matter as a Child Protection concern and report this to the Child Protection Designated Person. (Reference: the ALAT academy's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy).

¹ Age and context appropriate

Notice must also be taken of the ALAT academy rules that forbid 'inappropriate behaviour' at the ALAT academy with related sanctions. (See Behaviour Policy) Every member of the academy and visitors have the right to be treated with respect and dignity and we expect pupils and staff to behave in appropriate ways. (See Appendix 1 in the Safeguarding and Staff Facing Allegations of Abuse Policies)

This Sex and Relationship Education policy complements the following policies

- PSHE
- Equality
- Curriculum
- Safeguarding and Child Protection.

We will allow pupils to raise anonymous questions by providing systems throughout the programme through technology or a physical drop box for their confidential questions.

Generally SRE will be taught in mixed groups so that boys and girls are encouraged to work together. It is important that both boys and girls understand about the experience of puberty for the opposite gender. However, there will be planned opportunities for single gender sessions to explore gender specific issues.

8. Special Educational Needs

All academies have a duty to ensure that children with special educational needs are properly included in sex and relationship education. Sex and relationship education should help all pupils understand their physical and emotional development and enable them to make positive decisions in their lives.

Some parents and carers of children with special educational needs may find it difficult to accept their children's developing sexuality. Some pupils will be more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation than their peers, and others may be confused about what is acceptable public behaviour. These children will need help to develop skills to reduce the risks of being abused and exploited, and to learn what sorts of behaviour are, and are not, acceptable.

We will ensure pupils with special educational needs receive sex and relationship education. Teachers may find that they have to be more explicit and plan work in different ways in order to meet the individual needs of children with special educational needs.

9. Roles and Responsibilities in respect of the SRE Policy

Governors: Governors have a duty to ensure that the ALAT academy has an SRE policy which reflects the values and ethos of the ALAT academy. They must consult with parents about the policy. This is unlike other ALAT academy policies where this is not a requirement.

The Principal: must ensure that the policy is implemented and that staff are appropriately trained to carry out their role.

The people responsible for Science and PSHE: have the responsibility of devising appropriate programmes of learning which meet the requirements of the policy and to evaluate their effectiveness in relation to the aims and objectives.

All teachers: all teachers must have regard to this policy when devising their schemes of work or when discussing related issues.

Staff designated to teach SRE: staff designated to teach in this area must ensure that they have been appropriately trained, have up to date knowledge and abide by the SRE policy.

10. Monitor and Review of the SRE Policy

The review of this policy is the responsibility of the PSHE coordinator and includes:

- Review of curriculum planning and guidance
- Liaison with staff delivering SRE
- Carrying out a regular audit of SRE provision to ensure we are delivering an effective programme that meets the needs of all of our pupils.

Teachers and pupils will evaluate SRE lessons and resources to aid future planning.

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Principal who reports to the governing body about its effectiveness.

This policy will be reviewed every two years and more often if there are changes to relevant legislation.



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