

THE ASTLEY COOPER SCHOOL



Relationship Education and SRE Policy

Updated October 2023

**Headteacher: Mr S Orsborne
St Agnells Lane, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 7HL**

Tel (01442) 394141

E-mail admin@astleycooper.herts.sch.uk

Purpose

A key aim of The Astley Cooper School is that each student will develop the skills and knowledge to make decisions linked to relationships. Decisions about how they relate to others can only be made if they have adequate knowledge and understanding of their own well-being, physical and emotional development. This is not a task for the school in isolation, and we seek to work with parents to ensure that the teaching of SRE reflects their expectations and complements teaching at home.

We have developed an inclusive and modern curriculum. Our delivery of the curriculum will teach young people how to function in modern Britain with extra attention paid to mental health and wellbeing, LGBT+ issues, equality and diversity, and mutual respect in relationships including consent. During KS3, students will learn about relationships as part of the statutory requirements set by the government. Sexual education will be predominantly covered during KS4 and KS5. Where topics of a sexual nature, such as puberty, are covered in KS3, it will always be conducted in an age-appropriate and carefully considered way. Parents or carers who wish to withdraw children¹ from the lessons that include age-appropriate sexual content (please see curriculum map on the school website), should contact the school. Similarly, if parents or carers wish to contribute to the development of our curriculum, the school would be delighted to collaborate.

(1.<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education-faqs>)

Relationship to other policies

At Astley Cooper we refer to PSHE as PAL (Preparation for Adult Life). SRE is delivered as part of the PAL curriculum. PAL sessions are taught by form tutors twice a week in years 7 to 10 and once a week in year 11.

In addition to PAL sessions all students in year 7 to 11 have one lesson per fortnight of Personal Development and Wellbeing. SRE is also taught in this curriculum area.

SRE also forms an integral part of the schemes of work for Science, ICT, P.E. and relates to Child Protection.

Aims

- To help students understand biological facts, which will be presented in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner
- To develop self-esteem, self-awareness, and communication skills
- To equip students to make considered decisions about their own relationships and encourage them to respect the needs and rights of others
- To encourage students to recognise the physical, emotional, and moral implications and risks of sexual behaviour, linking to the law and online behaviour
- To help young people develop the skills, knowledge, understanding, and confidence required to make informed choices about their lifestyle to promote good health in themselves and others

- To support students to develop resilience, to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support.

Roles and responsibilities of the Headteacher, other Staff and Governors

The **Governing Body** will:

- Decide whether SRE should be in the school curriculum and, if so, what it should consist of and how it should be organised
- Seek the advice of the Headteacher on this policy, keep it up to date, and make it available to parents
- Allow parents and carers to withdraw pupils from sex education, but not Relationships or Health
- Ensure that SRE is provided in a way that encourages students to consider morals and the value of family life.

The **Headteacher** will ensure that:

- The Governing Body is advised about the nature and organisation of SRE and how it reflects the aims and values of the school
- SRE is provided in a way that encourages students to consider morals and the value of family life
- Students are protected from inappropriate teaching materials
- A scheme of work is agreed and implemented
- Ensure parents and carers are informed about the programme for SRE each term
- Allow parents and carers to withdraw pupils from sex education, but not Relationships or Health

Staff who teach sex and relationships education are expected:

- To provide SRE in accordance with this policy and in a way which encourages students to consider morals and the value of family life
 - To participate in training to provide SRE in line with the current national guidelines
 - To implement the agreed scheme of work
 - To draw to the attention of the Headteacher any materials which they consider to be inappropriate
 - To respond appropriately to those students whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from SRE
- To inform young people about current SRE issues including FGM and LGBTQ people
- To teach the current legislation relating to sexual behaviour
 - To respond to the challenges that modern technologies and trends pose
 - To emphasise equality and responsibility in relationships