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drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

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The drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust has been established through a shared belief that lives can be transformed by what goes on in schools. We believe that the process of teaching and learning shapes futures. To this end our vision is to provide every child with learning experiences that excite them and give them the power to begin to shape their own lives.

Vision

All pupils achieve the highest standard of educational outcomes regardless of circumstances or background.

Policy Statement

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) is a statutory policy which all schools must follow. The Trust believes it is in the best interests of all its pupils to teach SRE. Each of our Trust schools has adapted this SRE policy to reflect their specific context. This over-arching Trust policy lays out generic aims and principles. However, in preparation for the implementation of the new DfE statutory curriculum requirement for primary schools to deliver Relationships Education, the Trust will shortly be replacing this Policy. The new curriculum will be mandatory from September 2020

Background and Statutory Framework

Support for the teaching of SRE is provided through guidance published on the Gov.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/publications/sex-and-relationship-education>

This guidance remains statutory until the new curriculum becomes mandatory from September 2020

The statutory provisions on sex education are contained in sections 403 and 405 of the Education Act 1996. Schools have a statutory obligation under the *Children Act 2004* to promote their pupils' wellbeing and under the *Education Act 1996* to prepare pupils for the challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life. In 2015 the House of Commons Education Committee produced a Report, *Life Lessons: PSHE and SRE in schools*. This Report has informed the Trust's SRE policy and can be found at <https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmeduc/145/145.pdf>

Parental right to withdraw children

Parents are free to withdraw their children from SRE if they wish to do so. The only exceptions to this are the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are essential elements of the National Curriculum Science curriculum. Section 405 of the Education Act 1996 enables parents to withdraw their children from sex education other than the sex education that is in the National Curriculum.

Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)

SRE is concerned with lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. The Trust's approach is about developing understanding of the importance of relationships for family life and how stable and loving relationships include respect, love and care. It is also about age appropriate teaching of sex education. The Trust's aim to help pupils understand the facts about sex and sexuality in order to develop self-esteem, respect for others and to build self-confidence and decision-making.

The development of self-esteem is central; children who feel positive about themselves are more likely to develop caring relationships. The Trust's programme of sex and relationships education is firmly rooted within the context of moral considerations and healthy family relationships.

SRE teaching is organised within the Personal, Social Health and Economic (PSHE) education framework and is designed to be fully inclusive in order to meet the needs of all pupils. It aims to develop mutual respect, rights and responsibilities, and equality with regard to gender, sexuality and acceptance of diversity. The Trust's SRE teaching does not promote sexual orientation or sexual activity.

SRE is primarily concerned with:

- attitudes and values
- personal and social skills
- knowledge and understanding.

The Trust advocates strongly that all pupils have a right to good quality relationships education, as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children want to be prepared for the physical and emotional changes they undergo as they grow and develop and want to learn about relationships.

Older students frequently report that sex and relationships education in school was *too little, too late and too biological*. Ofsted reinforced this in a 2013 Report, *Not Yet Good Enough*. As pupils at Trust schools are all primary aged, the Trust believes it has an opportunity and responsibility to provide age-appropriate, high quality SRE to support pupils as they develop and grow. The Trust also considers that SRE plays a vital part in meeting the Trust's culture of safeguarding.

Within Trust schools, it is expected that SRE is taught as an integrated aspect of Personal, Social Health and Economic education. Age-appropriate SRE teaching is essential to keeping pupils safe and healthy, inside and outside of the school environment. The Trust believes that a

comprehensive SRE programme can have a positive impact on pupil's health and wellbeing as well as their capacity to achieve. An effective PSHE education provides pupils with both the knowledge and skills to manage their lives, stay safe, make the right decisions and thrive as individuals and members of society. It provides pupils with opportunities to develop skills and qualities such as resilience, leadership, communication, empathy, and perseverance. The Trust is committed to supporting children to develop these skills through high quality teaching and supportive relationships.

Roles and responsibilities

The Trust Board will oversee the implementation and effectiveness of this Policy by:

- ensuring it is available to parents via individual school websites as well as the Trust website
- ensure SRE is provided in a way that encourages pupils to consider morals, the value of family life and the importance of relationships
- use professional discretion when considering requests from parents for their children to be withdrawn from any SRE to which they object. Trust Schools will accept the request where the withdrawal does not cut across those elements of SRE which form part of the science curriculum.
- Listening to parents/carers and showing sensitivity to the views of parents whose ethnic background and/or religious beliefs cause them to hold strong reservations about such education within the context of British Values

Headteachers will be accountable for ensuring:

- a scheme of work is developed, agreed and implemented for the teaching PSHE
- the scheme of work is informed by current best practice including The PSHE Association Guidance Sex and Relationships Educations (SRE) for the 21st Century <https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/news/new-sre-guidance-published-pshe-association-brook?ID=1383>
- SRE is provided in a way that encourages pupils to consider morals, the value of family life, and the importance of respect, love and commitment in relationships
- pupils are protected and safeguarded from inappropriate teaching materials
- parents are informed about the programme for SRE through the school prospectus/website/ and the school's Parent and Community Forum meetings
- a consultative partnership is developed with parents to listen to views, ensure there is a clear understanding of the Policy and to address any concerns promptly

Staff will:

- implement the Policy and school's agreed scheme of work
- provide SRE in accordance with this Policy and in a way that encourages pupils to consider morals, the qualities of relationships and the value of family life
- participate in training to provide SRE in line with Trust Policy
- draw to the attention of the headteacher any materials which may be considered to be inappropriate
- respond appropriately to those pupils whose parents/carers wish them to be withdrawn from SRE

Monitoring

The teaching of SRE in the classroom will be observed, monitored and evaluated in the normal programme cycle of monitoring teaching and learning at every Trust school. Pupils' views and attitudes will be collated through the schools *pupil voice processes* e.g. via the School Council or Children's Safeguarding Board

Review

Monitoring and review	Trust Board Headteachers
Links	PSHE policy Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy British Values Policy
Staff responsible	CEO Headteachers
Committee responsible	Trust Board Achievement Support and Scrutiny Sub Committee
Date approved	November 2018
Reviewed	November 2019
Next review	September 2020 New Statutory Policy for <i>Relationships Education</i> to be implemented from September 2020.
Sign off by Chair of Trust	 Date: November 2019

*Please note that should there be any changes/further national guidance issued relevant to this policy, it will be updated accordingly prior to the review date shown above and referred to the next Trust Board meeting.

Change Management

Issue No.:	Change date:	Change description:
1.0	Sept'17	Initial release
2.0	Nov'18	Rebranded, updated and signed off for release
3.0	Nov'19	Checked, changes added, signed off and published