BATH & WELLS
Multi Academy Trust

Bath and Wells Diocesan Academies Trust

Relationship, Sex and Health Education Policy

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Version 1 – Revision summary	

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Context

The Bath & Wells Diocesan Academies Trust (the Trust) is a thriving learning community. In order to ensure that the Trust is a safe, supportive environment where pupils and staff can learn and thrive, there needs to be clear procedures, structures, and expectations in place. Trust policies are a formal way of documenting the procedures and values of the Trust and are designed to provide an instant picture of the principles of the Trust. They form an important framework that will ensure consistency in applying the agreed values and principles across all elements the Trust.

The Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy is a statutory policy required by the DfE.

Purpose (What do you want to achieve and why?)

At the Bath and Wells Trust, we want all children to be the best version of themselves. The objective of RSHE is to support pupils with their emotional and social development by teaching them about healthy relationships, lifestyles, personal identity and diversity, appropriate to their stage of education.

The purpose of RSHE is to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Teach the characteristics of positive relationships, with a focus on friendships, families and relationships with peers and adults
- Prepare pupils for puberty and the importance of health and hygiene
- Support pupils with how to recognise if they need help and how to seek advice
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

Scope (who does this policy relate to?)

This policy relates to all schools in the Bath & Wells Diocesan Academies Trust.

All primary schools must meet the requirements of the National Curriculum containing the science curriculum which includes the elements of sex education.

Delivery of RSHE

RSHE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Each school within the Trust uses government approved resources to teach PSHE. Biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the science curriculum.

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

- Families and people who care for me
- Respectful relationships and friendships
- Online relationships
- Being safe
- Positive emotional and mental well-being
- Physical health and fitness

- Healthy eating
- Changing adolescent bodies

There is no further sex education taught other than what is covered in the science curriculum or health education.

Schools within the Trust are free to determine how they introduce LGBTQ+ specific content, but schools should ensure that teaching is sensitive, age-appropriate and delivered with reference to the law. At the point that our schools consider it appropriate to teach their pupils about LGBTQ+, they will ensure that the content is fully integrated into the curriculum, rather than delivered as a stand-alone unit or lesson and should be taught in the context of family life, taking care to ensure there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances. Further guidance is expected to be provided from the DFE in 2025.

Materials used in schools must be in accordance with the PSHE framework and the law. Schools should ensure that pupils are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate, taking into consideration the age and cultural background of the pupils.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships or health education but are welcome to view resources beforehand. Headteachers should communicate with parents when and how they are able to do this. Individual schools PSHE and science curricula can be found on their website.

Delivery of RSHE is not the sole responsibility of schools: schools should work effectively in partnership with parents and others in the wider community such as health professionals and social workers, abiding by the school's policy.

Trust Alignment (How does the policy support the Trust's pledges and strategy?)

This policy is linked to Pledge 1 of the Trust's Strategic Plan and the strategic priority: *High quality and inclusive education that ensures excellent outcomes for all children.*

Other Related Policies (What other policies/guidance link to this policy?)

Statutory requirements

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following national & Trust policies:

i) Section 34 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
ii) Guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

Monitoring (Who owns this policy and how will impact be monitored?)

This policy is owned by the DCEO and will be subject to (e.g. annual review by the Board of Trustees). As part of this annual review, DCEO will provide a report to Trustees on the impact of the policy.