



RSE Parent Consultation

Updated Jan 2024

What is Aspire?

Aspire is a PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education programme designs by MCA to meet the needs of our pupils.

Aspire develops a child's knowledge, skills and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe and prepare for life and work in modern Britain.

Evidence shows that well delivered programme, such as the bespoke programme at MCA have an impact on both academic and non- academic outcomes for pupils, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

In our previous Ofsted Inspection they said:

'The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding.'

'Leaders are aware of the many dangers that pupils face in the local area. They provide a comprehensive PSHE curriculum to help pupils understand these dangers and how to keep themselves safe. They have developed links with many community agencies that provide information and advice for pupils on where and how to get help when needed.'

Current Model

Aspire already teaches our students about elements raised Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education, however we will be refining our curriculum to ensure that it meets the new guidance for September 2020.

Relationship and Sex Education (covered within Aspire)

Relationships and Sex Education will build on the teaching at primary school. It aims to give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds.

Our school will cover content on what healthy and unhealthy relationships look like and what makes a good friend, colleague and successful marriage or committed relationship. At the appropriate time, the focus will move to developing intimate relationships, to equip your child with knowledge they need to make safe, informed and healthy choices as they progress through adult life.

By the end of secondary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- **families**
- **respectful relationships, including friendships**
- **online media**
- **being safe**
- **intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health**

Health Education (covered within Aspire)

Health Education aims to give children the information they need to make good decisions about their own health and wellbeing, to recognise issues in themselves and others, and to seek support as early as possible when issues arise.

By the end of secondary school, pupils will have been taught content on:

- mental wellbeing
- internet safety and harms
- physical health and fitness
- healthy eating
- drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- health and prevention
- basic first aid
- changing adolescent body



The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 places duties on schools not just to address prejudice-based bullying but also to help to prevent it happening, and in doing so to keep protected characteristic groups safe.

PSHE education, with its focus on identity and equality, can help schools to fulfil this duty.

Schools are required to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; and
- advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- Relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation

DfE Topics from New Guidelines

Mental Wellbeing
Internet Safety Harms
Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
Respectful Relationships, including friendships
Online and Media
Intimate and Sexual Relationships, including Sexual Health
Citizenship
Physical Health and Fitness
Healthy Eating
Health and Prevention
Basic First Aid
Changing Adolescent Body
Families
Being Safe

All of these topics are covered in the current Aspire Curriculum model but will be adapted based on the new guidelines. Your child will engage in each topic at different points in the key stage and academic year with their form tutor. You can ask them about the upcoming topics in your contact meetings/phone calls. This is also available on the Academy website.

Topics are also address in other areas of the Academy such as Science, PE, Food and within Theme Days

Right to Withdraw

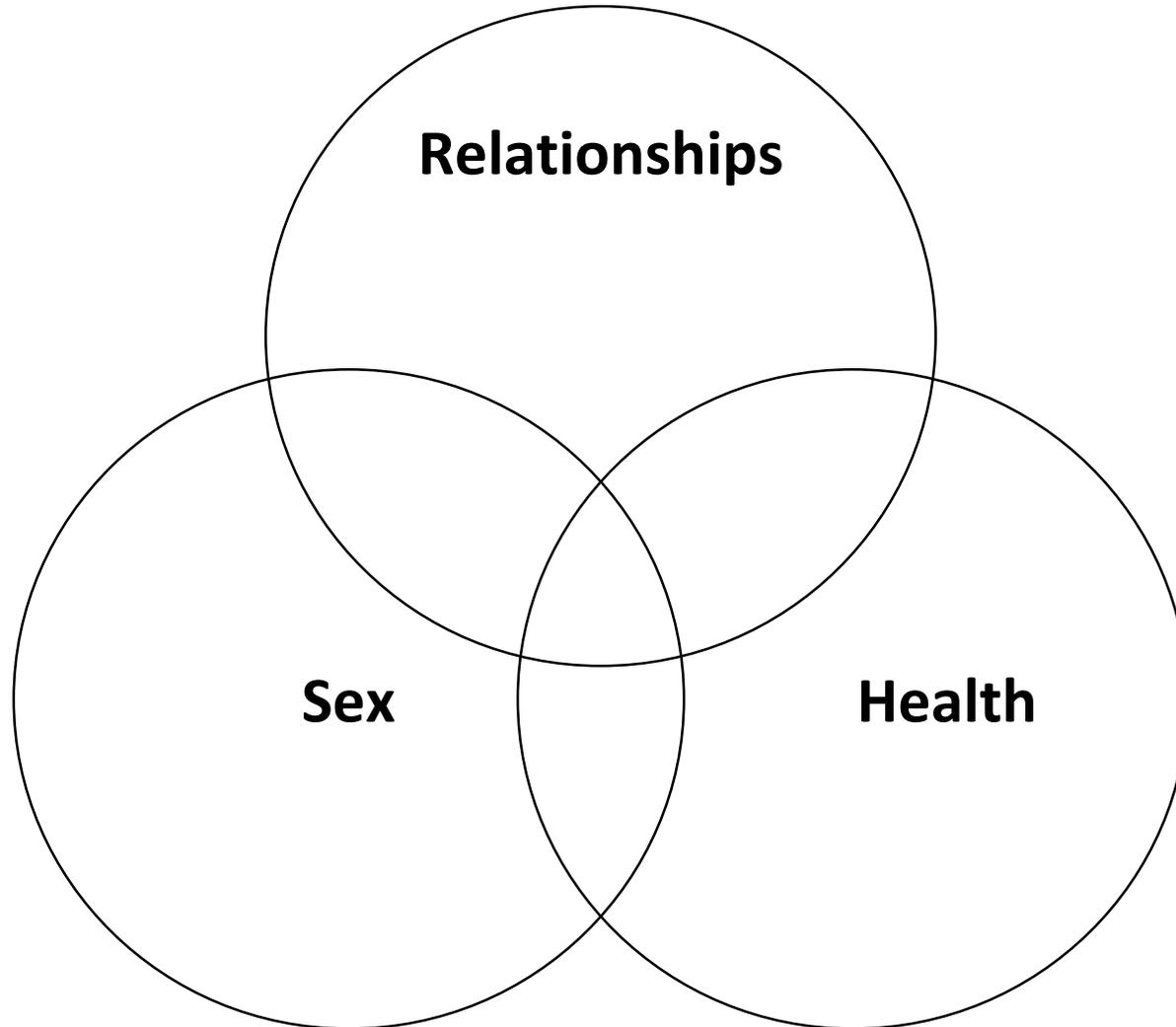
CURRENT GUIDELINES:

- Under the current SRE guidance, until September 2020, parents can choose to withdraw their child (up to the age of 18) from any or all aspects of Sex and Relationships Education that are not included within the statutory National Curriculum.
- This means that parents are not permitted to withdraw their child from elements of sex education (for example reproductive and biological aspects) that are within the science curriculum.
- Schools must make alternative arrangements for pupils whose parents choose to withdraw them from SRE lessons

Starting September 2020

- Parents will not be able to withdraw their child from any aspect of Relationships Education or Health Education (Aspire Curriculum).
- 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.'

What is Relationship, Sex and Health?



Possible topics include:

1. Mental health
2. Cyberbullying
3. Pornography
4. FGM
5. Puberty
6. 'Sexting'
7. Consent
8. STIs
9. Pregnancy
10. Contraception
11. Same sex marriage
12. Drugs & Alcohol
13. LGBT

Currently RSE Policy:

Teachers establish clear parameters of what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole class setting. It will be a matter of common practice that:

- no-one (teacher or student) will have to answer a personal question
- no-one will be forced to take part in a discussion
- the correct names for body parts will be used most of the time
- sensitivity will be shown towards those of particular faith backgrounds
- nothing should be said that could be construed as embarrassing or offensive to other pupils or students.

If a question is too personal, the student will be reminded of the ground rules. The student may then be referred to the appropriate MCA member of staff or outside agency via the Form Tutor/ Head of Year or Safeguarding lead for that student.

If a question is too explicit, seems too old for the student, is inappropriate for the whole class or raises concerns about sexual abuse, it will not be answered in front of the whole class. The member of staff will discuss their concerns with the Designated Safeguarding or Child Protection Officer as appropriate.

In cases of concern over sexual abuse, the Academy's Child Protection Procedures will be followed.

It is important to recognise the power and confusion of informal learning from, for example, television, magazines, newspapers, gossip, jokes and the wider community. Teachers can do much to dispel myths, reduce fear and anxiety, clarify understanding and counteract prejudice.

Further Information:

Resources:

- Get the Facts found on Gov.uk about Relationship and Sex Education FAQ's.
- RSE Parent Guide found on Gov.uk

Parents Consultation/ Questions:

- Please complete the Google Form with any questions around this consultation.

Contact the following members of staff:

- Sarah Wilcock – Director of Health and Wellbeing
- Nancy Holloran - DSL - Safeguarding

Next Steps:

Following this consultations:

- Parents will be responded to by email with regards to their questions.
- A summary of all questions and answers will be placed on the website for parents reference.
- Director or H&WB, Safeguarding, Governors and the Principal will review any changes based on the parent consultation.
- As per the Department for Education's guidance:

'What is taught, and how, is ultimately a decision for the school and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content'