

Curriculum Policy – Guidance on Statutory Requirements for the Academy



Requirements of the Academy Funding Agreement

An academy is required by its Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State to meet the following requirements for curriculum development and delivery:

- The curriculum must be broad and balanced;
- The broad and balanced curriculum must include English, mathematics and science;
- The Academy Trust must make provision for the teaching of religious education and for a daily act of collective worship in the same ways that the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 applies to maintained schools;
- The Academy Trust shall ensure that provision will be made for religious education to be given to all pupils at the Academy in accordance with the agreed syllabuses as required by the Education Act 1996;
- The Academy Trust must have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State, as required by the Education Act 1996 as it applies to maintained schools, in terms of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE).
- The Academy Trust must act in accordance with the 1996 act as it relates to political indoctrination and the duty to secure balanced treatment of political issues, as if it were a maintained school.

Requirement to Publish Information

The Academy Trust must publish the following information in relation to its current curriculum provision:

- The content of the Academy's curriculum;
- The Academy's approach to the curriculum;
- The names of any phonics or reading schemes in operation for Key Stage 1; and
- How parents, including prospective parents, can obtain further information in relation to the Academy's curriculum.

Religious Education

Academies are required to use the agreed syllabus for religious education, adopted by the Local Education Authority, in the same way as maintained schools. The agreed syllabus must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.



Sex and Relationship Education

The 1996 Education Act and its modifications by the Learning and Skills Act 2000, require the Academy Trust and its Principal to determine whether sex education will be provided to pupils and where it is to ensure that:

- Sex education is provided in such a manner as to encourage pupils to have regard to moral considerations and family life;
- Pupils learn the nature of marriage and its importance to family life and the bringing up of children;
- Pupils are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate in terms of the children's age, religious and cultural backgrounds;
- The Academy Trust gives due regard to any materials published by NHS bodies for the purpose of sex education in schools.

The academy's education policy must include a statement of the right of parents to withdraw their children from sexual education.

A copy of the academy's policy statement in regard of sex education will be included in the prospectus and web site.

Balanced Treatment of Political Issues

The duties on maintained schools in regard of political indoctrination and a duty to secure a balanced treatment of political issues (1996 Education Act), also applies to academies.

The Academy Trust must forbid:

- The pursuit of partisan political activities by any registered pupil of primary school age;
- The promotion of partisan political views in the teaching of any subject in the academy;
- The involvement of any member of the academy staff or anyone acting on behalf of the academy in delivering any political partisan activities with pupils off the academy site.

The Academy Trust will make sure as far as is reasonably practicable that where political issues are brought to the attention of pupils while they are in attendance at the academy or taking part in extra-curricular activities organised by the academy, they will be offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

