

Step 2, JAMES (Joint Activities & Motor Education Service) and HALE (Health Action Local Engagement) are three Bradford based charities who work together to offer support for Relationships & Sex Education across the Bradford district. We are funded by the Public Health Team at the Bradford Council, who recognise the need for high quality relationships & sex education.

Our staff include professionally qualified teachers, social workers and youth workers who support schools with;

- Curriculum and policy development
- Peer reviews of the curriculum
- Face to face delivery in classroom or assemblies
- Staff training
- Signposting to other services
- Consultation with parents and others
- Creation of YouTube content for schools to show or students to watch in their own time

Since March 2021, we have worked with 23 of the district's secondary schools offering varying degrees of support, facilitation and guidance. Staff in the district's secondary schools have received 1,672 instances of training. The district's children have received 10,559 instances of expert delivery of RSE (Relationships and Sex Education).

Given the amount of time we have spent in schools, we are struggling to reconcile the comments made by a group of MPs, who delivered a signed petition to Rishi Sunak, expressing their concerns about what is being taught to our children. What we are seeing is teachers, who are often non-specialists, working very hard with little support or training, to deliver relationships and sex education to children and young people growing up in a world, where many are exposed to inappropriate material online and offline at an earlier age. RSHE is not about the promotion of sexual activity. It is about giving people all the information they need, so that they can make safe and healthy choices, at the most appropriate times. We have never been aware of or delivered any content teaching young people how to engage in some of the practices mentioned in the MPs letter. At times young people may ask questions about things they have seen in pornography, online material, through social media or that they have witnessed or experienced in relationships (some of which are abusive). At that point we would, age appropriately, give the young people information with the aim of helping them to recognise what is harmful and to give them the skills to help them keep safe. Safeguarding children and young people is the number one priority of the programme, and of all staff who deliver it.



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