Relationships and Sex Education Policy

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1. Policy Statement

The Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy summarises the approach to Relationships and Sex Education at Luckley House School as required by the Department for Education (DfE). The policy also outlines the way in which parents may withdraw their child from Sex Education should they wish to as is their statutory right.

The policy refers to the Department for Educations statutory guidance:

- Relationships and Sex Education
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education guidance
- Keeping Children Safe In Education

2. Overview

Luckley House School's mission is to provide a Christian education characterised by academic excellence, a rich and diverse range of opportunity, aspiration and enthusiasm for life, and generosity of spirit. The School is built on the foundations of love and service and aims to equip pupils to live their lives well. Providing a robust RSE programme as part of Personal, Social, Health, and Economic Education (PSHE) helps support this aim.

We adopt a Christian worldview as the basis of our understanding of individual dignity, responsibility, and freedom and as the root of many of the most important societal values including democracy, liberty, and the rule of law.

Relationships and Sex Education is a statutory subject for all secondary schools in England and will be taught in a manner consistent with the mission and values of School.

Relationships and Sex Education will cover all topics required by the statutory guidance noted above and in a way that is age and developmentally appropriate. Teaching will be followed by discussion as to the Christian perspective and beliefs associated with the information delivered. Where relevant it will emphasise the central Christian emphasis on the importance of stable relationships, marriage, and the family.

In its teaching the School will promote British Values, including tolerance and respect for all, in particular for those who have different lifestyles or beliefs than one's own, and aim to prepare pupils for life in the modern world. It will pay due regard to Protected Characteristics as defined by the Equality Act of 2010.

3. Curriculum Content and Delivery

Relationships and Sex Education will be taught as part of the PSHE programme. Sex Education is also taught as part of the Biology curriculum. In order to provide consistency of content and approach, Relationships and Sex Education will be delivered by a team of trained staff overseen by the Head of Life Skills.

For Secondary schools the statutory DfE guidance states that RSE should "give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague, and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship. It should also cover contraception, developing intimate relationships, and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure). It should teach what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships."

Relationship and Sex Education will deliver required content relating to both knowledge and attitudes. In RSE lessons the applicable law or information will be taught in a factual way. Pupils will be well informed about the full range of perspectives, the aim being that they should be well equipped to make decisions for themselves about how to live their own lives well whilst respecting the right of others to make their own decisions and hold their own beliefs. Relationship and Sex Education will also consider pupils' personal attitudes to the information presented. Pupils will be encouraged to consider their own views and responses in light of what they have been taught and their own family

circumstances. Religious perspectives on the issues covered will be discussed within the Christian ethos of the School.

There are no formal assessments or examinations within RSE/PSHE, and no official homework that requires marking is set. However, assessment plays a key role in the planning and delivery of lessons to demonstrate progress, identify future learning needs, as well as to improve and show impact of learning. All pupils are provided with an end of term progress checker which uses a Likert scale approach (2 positive, 2 negative 1 neutral) so pupils can assess their own undertsanding of the topics covered.

External agencies and resources

External agencies and resources, where utilised, will be sourced *via* organisations in sympathy with the School's ethos such as, but not limited to, The Christian Institute, Lovewise and TenTen Resources. The Christian Institute and Lovewise are charities which seek to help schools by providing information and educational materials on the subjects of marriage, sex, and relationships from a Christian perspective. TenTen Resources seeks to help school communities grow in faith, love, understanding, and compassion. Together they create a wide range of resources informed by the Christian faith. Any resource will be appropriately tailored to the needs of our School.

Where external speakers are engaged, their talks will be such as to complement the programme and not replace teacher led lessons. All external speakers will be checked for suitability, and they will be clear as to their role delivering sessions and supported by the trained Luckley staff team. There will be one Life Skills 'Drop Down' day per term which covers a range of PSHE/RSE topics including but not limited to Internet safety, County Lines and relationships.

Questions and discussions

It is recognised that sensitive subject matter or potentially controversial issues may be discussed during RSE lessons, and it is to be expected that pupils may have questions. Where questions are taken, ground rules will be established and explained to the class ahead of the lesson to encourage a productive, supportive, and respectful atmosphere for discussion. There may be times where it would not be appropriate for staff to answer questions in an open forum. In these cases, the questions will be followed up outside of the lesson time and, if appropriate, reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Pupils will be encouraged to talk to their parents about the questions they have and the topics discussed.

4. Inclusion

Our teaching will pay due regard to Protected Characteristics as defined by the Equality Act of 2010.

Lessons will also consider pupils' ages, abilities, readiness, cultural and religious backgrounds, and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Lessons will be tailored to enable all pupils to access learning.

5. Right to Withdraw

In accordance with the statutory guidance, it is recognised that parents are the prime educators for their children and that the School should complement and reinforce this role. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from some or all of Sex Education delivered as part of statutory RSE other than where Sex Education is taught as part of the Biology curriculum; but there is no right of withdrawal from Relationship Education.

Should parents wish to withdraw their child from Sex Education lessons, they should put their request in writing to the Head of Section, who will discuss the matter with them and with the Head. The reasons for withdrawal will be documented. The decision to permit withdrawal lies with the Head but, in accordance with statutory guidance, the School will normally respect the parents' request to withdraw their child from these lessons up to and until three terms before their child turns 16. After that point, if their child wishes to receive Sex Education rather than be withdrawn, the School is obliged to provide the child with lessons accordingly.

Where a child has been withdrawn from Sex Education lessons, the School will ensure that the pupil will receive purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

6. Consultation and Information

Parents, pupils and staff are invited to comment on the contents of this policy prior to implementation. The policy will be published on the School website and a letter from the Head, explaining the policy and the format for comment, will be sent with copies of the policy to all parents and staff. The curriculum came into effect for the academic year 2021/2.

So that parents are informed regarding the Relationships and Sex Education their child is receiving, the curriculum content will be published each term. Should parents have any queries regarding the curriculum, they may address these to the Head of Section or Head of Life Skills.

Pages 25-38 of the DfE Guidance gives details of exactly what pupils must be taught.

7. Monitoring

Relationships and Sex Education will be monitored by the Head of Life Skills. They will meet with the Head and then in turn report to the Governors *via* the Education Committee, annually.