



RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION: POLICY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

INTRODUCTION

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is the right and responsibility of the parent/carer but it is also a statutory requirement of the Department for Education that RSE is taught in every school. Langley Senior provides RSE to support parents/carers in fulfilling their responsibility and to contribute to every pupil's health, wellbeing and preparation for adult life. Langley Senior is a diverse school community with a wide range of beliefs and values, which are fully respected and this policy seeks to reflect the rigour and respect Langley Senior brings to the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education.

SECTION 1 - THE AIMS OF RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

The aim of this policy is to communicate to staff, governors, parents/carers, visitors and pupils the manner in which RSE will be delivered and supported at Langley Senior.

The aims are:

- to enable our pupils to better understand the nature of relationships;
- to help pupils develop self-respect, confidence and empathy;
- to create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships, including an attitude of tolerance and an appreciation of diversity;
- to enable pupils to understand the importance of stable loving relationships, including marriage, for the bringing up of children;
- to prepare pupils for the changes that occur to their bodies, minds and emotions as a consequence of growth from childhood to adulthood;
- to render pupils able to keep themselves safe and understand risks and responsibilities involved in conducting sexual relationships;
- to ensure pupils know about the risks of being online and how to stay safe from exploitation and abuse;
- to support all young people for life in modern Britain.

SECTION 2 – STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, require all schools from September 2020 to deliver Relationships Education (in primary schools) and Relationships and sex education (in secondary Schools). It is also compulsory for all schools to teach Health Education. The overlap between Health Education and RSE is clear and our curriculum intertwines these two important statutory strands in teaching pupils to be healthy in all aspects of their lives.



SECTION 3 - WHAT IS EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION?

Our curriculum aims to support a lifelong process in learning about physical, moral and emotional development and coming to understand the importance of stable and loving relationships. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health as well as preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. Our curriculum is also designed to support children growing up in an increasingly complex and digital world. The dominance of social media, the prevalence of cyberbullying and the risk that children will learn about relationships from untrustworthy sources online have been considered in the creation of our RSE curriculum. We aim to support young people to make the right decisions and keep themselves safe and happy. The content and delivery of RSE at Langley Senior will be conducted in an age appropriate way.

3.1 Attitudes and Values

Pupils are helped to examine the value of family life, marriage, and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children. They are also encouraged to explore and consider moral dilemmas and the how to stand up to peer pressure or perceived societal norms. RSE can also help pupils to develop a positive self-image and high self-esteem, responsibility and the ability to make informed decisions.

3.2 Personal and Social Skills

RSE encourages pupils to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively whilst developing self-respect and empathy for others. Pupils are taught to make choices based on an understanding of difference, with an absence of prejudice, and learn how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse. RSE also provides opportunities to develop communication skills and assertiveness within a range of different situations.

3.3 Knowledge and Understanding

RSE focuses on understanding physical development at appropriate stages. The pupils will explore: human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, sexual identity, emotions and relationships. Pupils will also be provided with information on contraception and the range of local and national sexual health advice support services. Pupils will look at the reasons for delaying sexual activity, the benefits to be gained from such delay and the avoidance of unplanned pregnancy. This will provide an objective and balanced view of sexual matters, correcting any misconceptions and misinformation pupils may have gained.

SECTION 4 - DELIVERY OF RSE AT LANGLEY SENIOR

4.1 How Is RSE Taught?

We include the statutory Relationships and Health Education within our whole-school PSHE Programme. Years 6-11 are taught RSE within their timetabled PSHE lessons and we ensure progression through a spiral curriculum. This means that the same topics are revisited on a deeper level each year so that maturity and understanding can be built up. This means that no topic is ever taught just once and forgotten. This learning continues into the Sixth Form; topics that are particularly relevant to KS5 students are reinforced by the Head of the Sixth Form in assemblies and through their PSHE lessons with tutors. Furthermore, the RSE curriculum at Langley Senior is created and managed in consultation



with Langley Prep to ensure a consistent approach. As a springboard for our teaching, and to reinforce statutory content, we use Hodder Education's online platform Dynamic Learning (Explore PSHE for KS3 and Explore PSHE for KS4). This programme's automatic update policy ensures we are always covering the most relevant and up-to-date content and that our teachers are well-supported, whether teaching on site or remotely. The school is a member of the PSHE Association and the Sex Education Forum. We uses these membership to ensure that our teaching of RSE is of the highest standard. Teaching of RSE within PSHE is further supported by the school's pastoral programme, with Heads of Year and tutors reinforcing particularly important content. Some themes might also be covered in assemblies or presentations to larger groups by external facilitators.

Topics are taught within the context of family life taking care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances. Families can include single parent families, LGBT parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a different structure of support around them, for example: they may be young carers.

RSE (as part of PSHE) is taught as a curriculum subject and therefore is subject to the same Teaching and Learning expectations as other subjects. More information on this can be found in our Curriculum policy.

4.2 Protocol for RSE lessons:

Langley Senior School recognises the need to create a supportive and secure atmosphere where pupils can develop the confidence needed to talk, listen and think about relationships and sex education. In order to do this, teachers will establish ground rules with pupils to ensure, emphasise the importance of mutual respect, encourage reflection and make pupils aware of the relevant staff to approach for further help or information, as well as other sources of help and support. All teachers are given training on handling controversial topics, confidentiality boundaries, and where to refer pupils to for confidential advice and support. Each teacher is linked with one of the Heads of PSHE for training and mentoring.

The following are protocols for discussion-based lessons with pupils:

- No one (teacher or pupil) will have to answer a personal question or tell personal stories;
- No one will be forced to take part in a discussion;
- Teachers and pupils are expected to talk in general terms, rather than personal ones. For example, instead of talking about their own experience they might say "If a person were to..." or "People sometimes do/think/say/behave....";
- Meanings of words will be explained in a sensible and factual way using accurate vocabulary;
- Teachers may use their discretion in responding to questions and may say that the appropriate person to answer that question is the parent/carer;
- It is expected that teachers' personal beliefs and attitudes will not influence their teaching of RSE;
- If at any point a disclosure is made by a pupil, it is the responsibility of the member of staff to follow the schools' safeguarding policy and notify the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy DSL. Staff must also register any concerns for a pupil on CPOMs before notifying the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy DSL. For further information on how we keep our pupils safe, consult our Safeguarding Policy.

4.3 Specialist support



Langley Senior also recognises that some aspects of RSE may better be taught by specialists. From time-to-time Langley Senior School will invite experts in to deliver topics relating to RSE.

These will be asked to conform to the following:

- Visitors contributing to RSE will do so at the invitation of Langley Senior and will be qualified to make an appropriate contribution;
- Visitors must agree with the aims of Langley Senior School in delivering its policy on RSE;
- When in class, visitors will be supervised by a teacher who will be present at all times;
- Visitors will follow the College's Safeguarding procedures if a disclosure occurs within the classroom setting;
- Visitors will know and understand where their contribution fits into the College's programme for RSE.

SECTION 5 - PARENTAL RIGHT TO WITHDRAW CHILDREN FROM RSE

RSE is part of all pupils' education and it is hoped that all will participate.

5.1 Right to withdraw a Year 6 child from provision

From September 2020, parents will not be able to withdraw their child from any aspect of Relationships Education or Health Education. Sex Education is not taught in Year 6.

5.2 Right to withdraw a Year 7-11 child from provision

In secondary education from September 2020 (Year 7 -11):

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

5.3 Requesting withdrawal from RSE

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in **Appendix 1** of this policy and addressed to the Headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil's educational record. The Headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action. When the Headteacher receives such a letter s/he will invite the parents/carers to a meeting, at which the Headteacher will explain clearly what Langley Senior's policy is and seek to accommodate the wishes and/or concerns of the parents/carers. If that is not possible the pupil will be withdrawn from RSE and placed in another class where suitable work and supervision will be provided.



APPENDIX 1: REQUEST TO WITHDRAW A CHILD FROM RSE LESSONS

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of Child		Class:	
Name of Parent		Date:	
Reason/s for your request to withdraw your child from Relationships and Sex Education lessons: (Please give specific details of the topics that particularly concern you.)			
Is there any other information you wish the school to consider?			
Parent Signature:			
<i>Thank you for completing this form. Please email it to rfielden@langleschool.co.uk You will be contacted soon for further discussion.</i>			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Details of discussion with parents	
Actions agreed	
Approved by (Staff member signature)	