

Relationship, Sex and Health Education Policy

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1. School vision & policy aims

School Vision

Our vision is to create a community where everyone achieves and thrives so that all our students succeed through their education years and beyond. Everyone is valued within a safe and nurturing environment. All our students have full and equal access to an ambitious curriculum, rich learning experience and high-quality personalised support.

RSE & PSHE at Linwood School Vision

For all students to develop an understanding of the ever-changing world in which we live and develop the skills necessary to take an active role in their community and manage their relationships and life effectively.

Our aim is to give our students a range of skills and strategies to maintain physical and emotional health and positive mental well-being. We strive to teach them how to live a safe, fulfilling, responsible, balanced life as independently as possible. Through PSHE and RSE, we believe we can enhance children's education and help them become caring, respectful and confident individuals that have the skills necessary to lead a happy and successful life, whilst understanding their rights and those of others.

PSHE education cannot exist in isolation. At Linwood School it is part of a whole school approach and is seen across all areas of our timetables, in all curriculum pathways across all campuses.

RSE & PSHE are fundamental parts of our students' education and parents and families are also key partners in this aspect of our curriculum. Key topics and subject information are shared with parents and families through our parent & family newsletters each term.

2. Legislation & statutory Guidance

2.1. Statutory Guidance

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, make Relationships Education compulsory for all students receiving primary education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all students receiving secondary education. They also make Health Education compulsory in all schools except independent schools. Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) continues to be compulsory in independent schools. (DFE 2019)

Many schools are choosing to deliver relationships or sex education as part of a timetabled PSHE programme, with good outcomes. Where that provision meets the requirements of this high-level framework of core content they are free to continue with this model. Other schools may choose different curricular models for delivery. (DFE 2019)

2.2. Child Withdrawal Procedures

The DFE statutory Guidance for RSE and Health Education from September 2020 states:

- 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 students are withdrawn from sex education, schools should document the process and will have to *'ensure that the student receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.'*

3. Roles & Responsibilities

3.1. Teachers

The programme will be led by class teachers. It will be taught by class teachers and supporting staff. Teachers responsible for teaching RSE and PSHE will receive training through yearly safeguarding updates, self-sought CPD and CPD organised by the subject leaders in collaboration with the staff manager.

3.2. Role of the Subject Leaders

The subject leaders are responsible for monitoring and reviewing the long- and medium-term plans and teaching. The subject leaders will organise, through the Staff Manager whole school INSET training.

It is the subject leader's responsibility to inform staff of new developments, new resources and to advise on their use. Staff may request the purchase of resources through the subject leader who manages the budget. Resources are available on the school network and through the subject leaders.

Progress and attainment will be monitored by data analysis, learning walks and lesson observations where appropriate, carried out by the subject leaders and the senior leadership team.

3.3. Procedures for the involvement of health professionals and visitors

The programme will be supported by outside agencies who will visit the school and enhance the teaching such as Health professions, Social Services and the Community Police. All visitors will be DBS checked, and their materials, content and methodology quality assured by subject leaders. Health professionals who are involved in delivering programmes of study are expected to work within the school's policy. However, when they are in their professional role they should follow their own professional codes of conduct.

3.4. Governors

The governors are responsible for ratifying the policy on a yearly basis. They are responsible for monitoring the delivery of the RSE and PSHE curriculum and the student's attainment.

4. Content

4.1. Intended Outcomes

Relationship, health and sex education is the lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of family life, stable and loving relationships, respect love and care. At Linwood School relationship, health and sex education builds, in a responsible and developmentally

appropriate way, on students existing knowledge and experience of their bodies, relationships and their world around them. The subject leaders carefully scrutinize teaching materials to ensure they are appropriate with regard to the age and the religious and cultural background of the students.

The teacher should address the following aims

- Acknowledge and complement the role of parents/carers as relationship, health and sex educators and liaise with them.
- Counter misleading notions and folklore.
- Provide acceptable vocabulary for all parts of the body and encourage sensible attitudes to natural bodily functions.
- Provide information about sexual matters in an open and frank way, being sensitive to the needs of individuals and groups.
- Generate an atmosphere within which the students can ask questions and discuss without embarrassment.
- Stress the value of family life.
- Promote loving and caring relationships and the idea of mutual responsibility within these relationships.
- Increase awareness of sexual identity and develop ideas of non-stereotyped gender roles.
- Help students understand that they have rights and should have control over who touches their bodies and also to increase communicative skills about such matters.
- Help students to understand that others have rights about who touches their bodies.
- Provide young people with information about different types of contraception, safer sex, and how to access local sources of advice and information.
- Promote an understanding of the consequences of one's actions in relation to sexual activity and parenthood.
- Develop skills and promote responsible attitudes for future parents and child carers'.

As a result of our PSHE programme of learning, students will have the opportunity to:

- Develop good relationships in school, in the classroom and on the playground and to promote a positive school ethos.
- Develop self-esteem in the whole school community.
- Develop independent life skills and knowledge.
- Develop independence and daily personal care routines.
- Develop a positive atmosphere for learning.
- Develop and encourage links with the parents and the community.
- Take responsibility for their own actions.
- Plan and use their own initiative.
- Foster attitudes in their perception of themselves and others.
- Be enabled to take an appropriate place in the adult world.
- Develop their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical wellbeing.
- Be prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

4.2. Creating a safe and supportive learning environment

Linwood will ensure that where students indicate that they may be vulnerable and at risk, they will get appropriate support whilst following the safeguarding procedures. This policy is informed by the school's safeguarding/child protection policy.

4.3. Entitlement and Equal Opportunities

Linwood School is committed to a policy of Equality, Inclusion and Diversity in all aspects of school life. See separate Equality, Inclusion and Diversity policy.

Teaching will consider the age, ability, readiness, and cultural backgrounds of students [and those with English as a second language] to ensure that all can fully access the PSHE and RSE education provision.

Linwood School will use PSHE and RSE education as a way to address diversity issues and to ensure equality for all by embedding learning across all curriculums and embracing any learning opportunity. This will also be supported by the Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Policy. Linwood School recognise the right for all students to have access to PSHE and RSE learning which meets their needs. Linwood School will not exclude access to PSHE or RSE for any student by delivering content in a way that suits their learning profile and neurological developmental stage.

4.4. Moral and Values Framework

We acknowledge the role of parents/carers as the main educators of relationships, health and sex, with the school having a complementary and supportive role. We offer a relationship, health and sex education programme that is developmental, suitable to the age of the student, and is in an environment where students feel confident that their questions will be answered sensitively.

We are continually developing and are implementing a comprehensive relationship, health and sex education programme of study embracing values, attitudes and behaviour as well as knowledge. We understand the need for all students to consider relationships and responsibilities and we encourage students to have due regard to moral considerations to family life. Sensitive issues such as AIDS, contraception, sexually transmitted diseases and coping with social pressures which might lead to irresponsible sexual behavior will be addressed at a suitable level to individuals understanding and maturity. Work will be undertaken to help students protect themselves from abuse.

4.5. Learning and Teaching

The programme will be taught through a range of teaching methods, including discrete lessons, embedding learning throughout curriculum content, targeted sessions, community visits, and physical education.

Teaching staff will ensure that sessions, including those on risky behaviours, remain positive in tone with the Regulation and Engagement policy.

Students will be supported to make connections between their learning and 'real life' behaviours by exploiting all opportunities to explore PSHE and RSE themes and topics.

It is important to allow our students to learn at their own pace with regular reinforcement. The spiral nature of the RSE and PSHE curriculum throughout the school allows for this and ensures development through the Key Stages.

RSE and PSHE education will be delivered to suit the needs of individuals taking into consideration their developmental and chronological age and individual circumstances.

4.6 Organisation

At Linwood School, RSE and PSHE are taught throughout the school using a spiral curriculum. The PSHE and RSE curriculum has been developed using the PSHE Associations PSHE scheme of work, the PSHE Associations PSHE Education for students with SEND, the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory guidance and in collaboration with Dorset Health. The spiral curriculum enables topics to be revisited throughout the students' life at Linwood, giving opportunities to reinforce and build on skills already learned.

The subject is embedded and taught through discrete lessons and individually when required. Clear ground rules are set for lessons. Class teachers are given guidance on the content of the lesson and differentiate as appropriate to the students they are teaching. Relationship, health and sex education is taught in mixed groups and a variety of teaching and learning styles are used.

Resources are selected for their suitability for the different age groups with regard to the different stages of individual development, both physically and mentally. At times it may be necessary to work with individuals or small groups if a specific issue is identified.

Resources are available from the PSHE subject leaders. There are also resources for staff development.

Through the PSHE/RSE curriculums students will explore the following topics/themes:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring Friendships
- Respectful Relationships
- Internet safety and harms including online relationships
- Mental wellbeing
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs, alcohol and tobacco/vaping
- Health and prevention
- Basic first aid
- Living in the wider world
- Being safe at home and in the community
- British values
- Changing bodies
- Intimate and sexual relationships including sexual health
- Being safe/Consent Inc. online and media

4.7. Assessment

A students' prior knowledge/starting points will be determined by using assessment data and maps, personalised learning plans, PREP's (Personalised Regulation and Engagement Plans) and through informal assessment and understanding of the individuals.

Students' learning, progression and attainment will be assessed using their curriculum phase assessment maps which is recorded on Evidence for Learning.

Students in key stage 3 and 4 working on the VITA curriculum have the opportunity to work towards ASDAN accreditation 'My Independence', this is mapped against the Preparing for Adulthood pathway.

Students in key stage 4 working on the Lumos curriculum have the opportunity to work towards ASDAN Personal Development Programme.

Students at CHI complete an ASDAN PSD qualification, which is linked to the 'Employability Skills Framework' and 'Preparation for Adulthood'

4.8. Confidentiality and handling disclosures

Establishing a safe, open and positive learning environment based on trusting relationships between all members of the class, adults and children alike, is vital. Students will be reminded of relevant ground rules before starting any session and as part of daily routines.

If a student makes a disclosure, safeguarding procedures will be followed.

Sensitive and controversial issues are likely to arise in learning from real-life experience. Teachers will be prepared to handle personal issues arising from the work, to deal sensitively with, and to follow up appropriately, disclosures made in a group or individual setting.

Issues could be likely to be sensitive and controversial due to a political, social or personal impact or deal with values and beliefs including: family lifestyles and values, physical and medical issues, financial issues, bullying and bereavement.

Teachers will take all reasonable, practical steps to ensure that, where political or controversial issues are brought to students' attention, they are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

Teachers will adopt strategies that seek to avoid bias on their part and where possible will teach students how to recognise bias and evaluate evidence. Teachers will seek to establish a classroom climate in which all students are free from any fear of expressing reasonable points of view that contradict those held either by their class teachers or their peers.

As a general rule a child's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that the child is at risk or in danger, safeguarding procedures will be followed.

Students are always encouraged to talk to parents / carers, teachers or a trusted adult if there is a problem. Information given will be treated in confidence, however there may be occasion where information is passed onto the designated safeguarding lead (See separate Safe Guarding Policy).

4.9. Responding to Student Questions and Comments

Students' questions are answered according to the age, maturity and ability of the students concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in this area and refer to the Safeguarding Lead if they are concerned. Our school believes that PSHE and RSE Education should meet the needs of all students, answer appropriate questions and offer support.

4.10. Working with Parents

This policy is available for all parents to view and they are encouraged to discuss any issues of concern with the class teacher or PSHE subject leaders. Parents are welcome to view materials or DVDs and there are some materials that parents can loan from the school. Requests should be made to the class teacher or subject

leaders. Parents will be given opportunities to view examples of materials through coffee mornings/afternoons, and parents evening. When the policy is reviewed annually the updates will be shared with parents via school communication with an opportunity for them to feedback. Comments from parents are welcome and will be noted to be included in the review of this policy.

5. Related Policies/Guidance

There are other policy documents and statements, which relate to RSE and PSHE and should be read in conjunction with this document.

- Regulation and Engagement Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Online Safety
- Safeguarding Policy
- EYFS Policy
- EYFS Curriculum Handbook
- Alma Curriculum Handbook
- Vita Curriculum Handbook
- Lumos Curriculum Handbook
- Nexus Curriculum Handbook
- Post 16 Handbook
- DFE Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education – Statutory Guidance for governing bodies, proprietors head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams and teachers (2019)
- Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (July 2000) 0116/2000

6. Appendices

Not Applicable