

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

This Policy applies to the whole school and is published to staff, pupils and parents

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Rationale

At Longridge Towers School we believe that all children should receive teaching that supports their development into mature, active citizens. As part of the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education, Relationships Education (Junior), and Relationships and Sex Education (Senior) builds on both the statutory national curriculum for science and requirements as published in the Government guidance “Relationships Education, and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education 2020”

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>).

Purpose

At Longridge Towers School we believe that each child should have the opportunity to learn and to achieve to their highest attainable level. We strive to meet the needs of all children

across the spectrum of abilities, regardless of age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic or social background and taking account of their individual talents and any special educational needs.

We will provide in a safe and welcoming setting, Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education that is challenging, interesting, informative and relevant. The purpose of this policy is to set out the ways in which the School's provision for this area supports pupils through their spiritual, moral, social, emotional and physical development and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life and adulthood.

Our teaching ensures that pupils have an age-appropriate understanding of different types of relationships which may exist both online and offline, appropriate boundaries of behaviour and what constitutes inappropriate behaviour, consent, characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships, how relationships impact on physical and mental wellbeing, sexual health and reproductive choices.

Key Roles and Responsibilities

Sandra Bullen: Junior School Head of P.S.H.E.E., Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead for Junior Department and EYFS

Isabel Cheer: Head of Senior School P.S.H.E.E., Designated Safeguarding Lead

Sarah Maddock: Designated SLT Member

Alistair Birkett: Lead Governor

Aims and Objectives of Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education Policy

At Longridge Towers School we will:

- generate an atmosphere where children can be comfortable about asking questions about gender, sexuality, sexual relations and reproduction;
- provide biologically accurate vocabulary for all parts of the male and female bodies and their functions;
- counteract myth and folklore;
- explain the nature of human reproduction using age appropriate language;
- stress the value of family life (widely defined) and the importance of proper care and nurture;
- help children understand and communicate about forthcoming pubertal changes;
- help children to understand that they have rights and control over who touches their bodies;
- enable children to understand the danger from strangers – to understand types of age-appropriate affectionate behaviour and that no-one has the right to ask them to participate in behaviour or activities which makes them feel uncomfortable;
- help them to develop strategies to resist and report such situations;
- enable children to identify key features of what constitutes healthy relationships, and also the features of unhealthy relationships;
- enable children to understand the importance of consent within any relationship;
- provide children with the knowledge to make informed choices about relationships both online and offline
- enable children to understand that managing online relationships appropriately and safely is as important as managing offline relationships
- signpost a variety of support services which they can access with regard to

relationship challenges;

- provide explanations and reassurances about these physical and emotional changes and help children to adjust to them;
- raise awareness of the value of equal opportunities;
- answer awkward questions honestly and frankly, whilst reserving the right to refer age-inappropriate questions to parents or guardians (please also see below regarding Safeguarding);
- help children to be aware of the importance of personal hygiene;
- provide a variety of resources appropriate to the age and ability of the child.

Safeguarding

Staff delivering Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education are aware that the very nature of this area of education may lead to pupils making a disclosure or raising a concern which will require consideration under the School's Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy. This may be a direct disclosure by a pupil, or an indirect one e.g. where a pupil appears to have age inappropriate sexual knowledge. Whilst on some occasions, it would be appropriate to raise this with parents/carers in the first instance, the School has a legal duty of care to make a formal referral to social services if there is a risk that a child has suffered or likely to suffer significant harm and, where a possible crime has been committed, the Police. Where this is the case, it may not be appropriate to raise the matter with parents/carers first if it is not considered in the best interests of the child making the disclosure, or if it puts them at a greater risk of harm.

Moral and Values Framework

Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education is about relating to other people, respecting the rights and feelings of others, developing loving, caring relationships as friends, parents, members of a family and sexual partners. It also involves learning to say 'no' to unwanted sexual advances and how to protect oneself from abuse and exploitation. Our programme of sex education respects religious, moral and cultural viewpoints. We will be neutral to sexual orientation and adopt a non-tolerance policy towards any type of sexual bullying, whether physical, verbal or through the use of technology.

Framework for Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education Programme

This programme will be taught as part of the P.S.H.E.E Curriculum using the Christopher Winter Project materials: 'Teaching SRE with Confidence in Primary Schools' and 'Teaching SRE with Confidence in Secondary Schools'. This scheme of work is a spiral curriculum relevant to the age, experience and maturity of the pupils. The Senior School will supplement this with additional P.S.H.E. Association recommended resources.

Junior Department

In the early school years, R.S.E. will focus on areas such as keeping clean, growing and changing, families and care, differences between males and females and naming body parts. In Key Stage 2 lessons will focus on differences between males and females, personal space, family differences, growing and changing, puberty, male and female changes, reproduction, understanding relationships and communicating within them, conception and pregnancy. In years 5 and 6 some of the aspects covered in R.S.E. go beyond the Science National Curriculum but are within the Guidelines of the Scheme recommended by the PSHE

Association.

Staff who teach R.S.E. have received appropriate support and training within school. Teachers are trained to deal with children's questions honestly and with balance.

Pupils are allowed to share their questions and concerns with staff in confidence, without fear of being judged or reprimanded. It is the professional duty of staff to explain the meaning of confidentiality to young people and to avoid making an unconditional promise of confidentiality.

Senior Department

The Senior School take into account the age, experience and maturity of the pupils and cover topics including: changes in puberty, managing feelings, understanding different types of relationships, conception, contraception, sexual health, pornography, sexual consent, managing boundaries, appropriate and inappropriate sexual behaviour and personal safety, reproductive choices and parenting.

Consultation

The Relationships and Sex Education Policy has a special level of sensitivity, and is one that will be shared with teaching staff, parents and carers of our pupils.

When reviewing, revising and updating this policy, the following sources of information and opinion should be consulted:

- Guide to the Law for School Governors – www.governor.net.co.uk
- Designated Safeguarding Lead/Head of Senior School P.S.H.E.E, the Head of Junior Department and the Deputy Head of the Junior Department/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead/Head of Junior School P.S.H.E.E.
- Chair of Governors
- Governor with responsibility for Pastoral Care
- Updated DfE and Government guidance
- Parents should be consulted if a major change to this policy is undertaken

Parents' Right of Withdrawal

Junior Department

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the school's programme of Relationships Education, which go beyond the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum in Science and the Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education guidance. The School will notify parents and guardians before such teaching takes place and invite them to a class meeting to look at lesson plans and resources that will be used. If a child is withdrawn, then alternative arrangements for supervision and teaching will be made in school by staff.

Senior Department

After discussion with the Head of P.S.H.E.E., parents have the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of the school's programme of Relationships and Sex Education, that go beyond the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum in science and the Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education guidance.. An information evening is held early in the academic year, where the content of the P.S.H.E.E. and Relationships and Sex Education programme for Senior pupils is shared with parents. Parents are asked to contact the School should they wish to discuss which aspects they would prefer the School not to cover with their children. Alternative provision will be made for the supervision and teaching of any pupils who are withdrawn. Parents should note that pupils

have the right to request sex education from three terms before they turn 16 – the legal age of sexual consent. The School is then obliged to make arrangements for this to happen in one of those three terms.

Working with Parents and Carers

Parents and guardians are the key figures in helping their children to cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up, and also in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings. We consider that our teaching of Relationships Education and Relationships and Sex Education is complementary and supportive to the role of parents. In this regard, parents are invited to offer their views about its content and presentation.

Procedures for Policy Monitoring and Evaluation

The School Governors will review the policy every two years, looking especially at recent official documentation, research and comments from parents and guardians. The teaching programme will be reviewed regularly by the Head of the Junior Department and the Head of Senior School P.S.H.E.E.