



Lakeside
School
Learning for life

Relationships and sex education policy (from 2021)

Approved by:

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1. Aims

The aims of relationships and sex education (RSE) at Lakeside are to:

- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.
- Prepare our pupils for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- Support access to information and knowledge to which all pupils are entitled
- Clarify/reinforce knowledge students have already acquired
- Raise student's; self esteem and confidence, especially in their relationships with others
- Teach them to respect and value the opinions and feelings of others
- Help students to understand their sexual feelings and behavior
- Develop skills (language/communication, decision making, choice, assertiveness) which are necessary in a range of situations
- Promote pro-social behavior in public and private situations
- Provide the confidence to be an active member of society

2. Statutory requirements

As a state maintained school with Secondary Aged Pupils, we must provide RSE as per the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

In teaching RSE, we must have regard to to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

3. Definition

- RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.
- RSE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.
- RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

4. Curriculum

Lakeside is a school for students with severe and complex learning difficulties including autism, physical and multi sensory impairments, epilepsy, auditory and visual impairments, catering for pupils aged 2 to 19 years. We have developed an adapted curriculum, taking into account age, needs and developmental level, within which individual learning targets are addressed.

5. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum (EQUALS SOW).

Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me
- Caring friendships
- Respectful relationships
- Online relationships
- Being safe

These areas of learning 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: looked after children or young carers).

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The governing board

The governing board will approve the RSE policy, and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

6.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory components of RSE.

6.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

6.4 Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSE appropriate to their needs and stages of development.

7. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in Appendix 3 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from sex education.

8. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The headteacher will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

9. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by The Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and Middle Leaders through lesson observations, peer observations, staff meetings, planning scrutiny.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers using Lakeside Steps, as part of our SOLAR assessment system.

This policy will be reviewed by The Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher bi-annually.. At every review, the policy will be approved by the T&L Committee and full governing body.

