



Lady Manners School

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

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Reviewed by:	DR
Approved by:	Governing Board
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Through our shared school values, we aim for all students to thrive, feel included and aspire to grow as individuals who contribute to society with empathy, integrity and positivity.

This document will be reviewed annually by the Governing Board and sooner when significant changes are made to the law.

Guidance from the Department for Education about school policies can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/governance-in-maintained-schools/statutory-policies-for-maintained-schools>

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EQUALITIES STATEMENT OF INTENT

Lady Manners School welcomes a diverse population of both students and staff. In order to consolidate and build upon this diversity, equality of opportunity and the absence of unfair discrimination is at the core of all the school's activities. The school will not unfairly discriminate in the recruitment or general treatment of staff or students.

The school is committed to promoting and developing equality of opportunity in all its functions and will seek to do this by:

- communicating its commitment to equality and diversity to all members of the school community;
- maintaining systems for implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review;
- treating acts of discrimination and other contraventions of this policy as a disciplinary offence.

The Governing Board has responsibility for ensuring that the school operates within the legal framework for equality and for implementing the policy throughout the school. In addition, each member of the school community is responsible for preventing unfair discrimination or harassment or victimisation which it is within their control to prevent; and challenging or reporting such inappropriate behaviour if it occurs.

1. AIMS

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

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare students for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help students develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships

- Teach students the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

2. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

As a secondary school we must provide RSE to all students under the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

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

We must also have regard to our legal duties set out in:

- Sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996
- Part 6, chapter 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#)
- The Public Sector Equality Duty (as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). This duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

At Lady Manners School, we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3. DEFINITION

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of students, 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

The curriculum components are set out in **Appendix 1**, but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum taking into account the age, needs and feelings of students. If students ask questions outside the scope of this policy, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and don't seek answers online.

5. DELIVERY OF RSE

RSE is taught within the Personal Development curriculum as bespoke Personal Development lessons. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE). Online and media is taught in ICT lessons in addition to PD lessons and assemblies.

RSE focuses on giving young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds including:

- Families
- Respectful relationships, including friendships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health

For more information about the RSE curriculum, see **Appendix 1**.

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).

We will also be mindful of the law and legal requirements, taking care not to condone or encourage illegal political activity, such as violent action against people, criminal damage to property, hate crime, terrorism or the illegal use of drugs.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 The Board of Governors

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 students from the non-statutory/non-science components of RSE (see section 8).

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 students
- Responding appropriately to students whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE

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 Students

Students are expected to engage fully in RSE and, when discussing issues related to RSE, treat others with respect and sensitivity.

7. PARENTS / CARERS RIGHT TO WITHDRAW

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE up to and until 3 terms before the child turns 16. After this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education rather than being withdrawn, the school will arrange this. A copy of the email sent to parents is in **Appendix 2**.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the Headteacher.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the student's educational record. The school will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

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

Appendix 1 - By the end of secondary school students should know

TOPIC	STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That there are different types of committed, stable relationships• How these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children• What marriage is, including their legal status e.g. that marriage carries legal rights and protections not available to couples who are cohabiting or who have married, for example, in an unregistered religious ceremony• Why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into• The characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships• The roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting• How to: determine whether other children, adults or sources of information are trustworthy: judge when a family, friend, intimate or other relationship is unsafe (and to recognise this in others' relationships); and, how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed

TOPIC	STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW
Respectful relationships, including friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships (in all contexts, including online) including: trust, respect, honesty, kindness, generosity, boundaries, privacy, consent and the management of conflict, reconciliation and ending relationships. This includes different (non-sexual) types of relationship• Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships• How stereotypes, in particular stereotypes based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage (e.g. how they might normalise non-consensual behaviour or encourage prejudice)• That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including people in positions of authority and due tolerance of other people's beliefs• About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help• That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control• What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable• The legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and that everyone is unique and equal

TOPIC	STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW
Online and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online• About online risks, including that any material someone provides to another has the potential to be shared online and the difficulty of removing potentially compromising material placed online• Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them• What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online• The impact of viewing harmful content• That specifically sexually explicit material e.g. pornography presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours, can damage the way people see themselves in relation to others and negatively affect how they behave towards sexual partners• That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail• How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM, and how these can affect current and future relationships• How people can actively communicate and recognise consent from others, including sexual consent, and how and when consent can be withdrawn (in all contexts, including online)

TOPIC	STUDENTS SHOULD KNOW
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to recognise the characteristics and positive aspects of healthy one-to-one intimate relationships, which include mutual respect, consent, loyalty, trust, shared interests and outlook, sex and friendship • That all aspects of health can be affected by choices they make in sex and relationships, positively or negatively, e.g. physical, emotional, mental, sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing • The facts about reproductive health, including fertility and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women • That there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressurising others • That they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex • The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available • The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage • That there are choices in relation to pregnancy (with medically and legally accurate, impartial information on all options, including keeping the baby, adoption, abortion and where to get further help) • How the different sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDs, are transmitted, how risk can be reduced through safer sex (including through condom use) and the importance of and facts about testing • About the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment • How the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour • How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment

Commented [MB1]: Part of a single lesson covers this. If covered in Biology then this is okay, not great, but okay. May aim to do more in the extractions around this.

Commented [MB2]: Covered in a single part-lesson. Needs a little more. Will build in to an extraction lesson

Appendix 2

WITHDRAWAL FROM SEX EDUCATION WITHIN RSE

Dear Parents and Carers

Term 5 Y9 Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSE) unit of work

As part of our school's wider Personal Development programme, your child will soon receive lessons on relationships, sexual health and personal safety.

The purpose of the RSE curriculum is to provide knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy relationships based on respect. This is to encourage the development of safe and healthy relationships throughout life. The lessons are designed to help children build positive and safe relationships.

Students will be taught the following RSE statutory themes over the term:

- how to recognise the characteristics of a healthy intimate relationship
- impact of alcohol use on decision-making around sex (including capacity to consent)
- about Sexually Transmitted Infections, prevalence and treatment
- the range of contraceptive options and how these are accessed

The emphasis will be on safe and healthy relationships, whilst providing students with the knowledge and skills they require to recognise these features. Students will be taught about what is healthy, normal and safe. The curriculum covers STIs and contraception and how to be aware of unhealthy negative relationships including coercion, pressures faced by young people, online grooming, cat fishing etc.

Whilst this subject matter is statutory, as a parent or guardian, you do have a right to withdraw your child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Upon request, permission to withdraw individual students may be granted until three terms before your child turns 16. At this point, if the child wishes to receive sex education, rather than be withdrawn, the school will make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's participation in these forthcoming lessons please do not hesitate to contact the school via info@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk.