

LECA RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) Policy

Note: This policy is very much in its early stages as we aim to work in partnership with parents and carers before being finalised.

At LECA, we strive to provide quality Relationships and Sex Education as research has shown that young people who have had good RSE are less likely to have underage sex and when they do first have sex are more likely to use contraception. We also believe that students being empowered to understand their rights and responsibilities is supporting them to becoming resilient individuals, equipped for the future.

In line with government guidance updated for September 2020 RSE at LECA is an identifiable part of the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum which has planned, timetabled lessons across all the key stages. RSE at LECA promotes safe, equal, caring and enjoyable relationships and discusses real-life issues appropriate to the age of our students (11-16), including friendships, families, consent, relationship abuse, sexual exploitation and safe relationships online.

We currently offer all our KS3 students one hour of PSHE a week and one hour a fortnight at KS4. The teaching of RSE is embedded in the curriculum and occupies roughly 20% percent of the wider PSHE curriculum.

Lessons are delivered where pupils feel safe and are encouraged to participate by using a variety of teaching approaches with opportunities to develop critical thinking and relationship skills. Learning resources are current and based on reliable sources of information including about the law and legal rights, and distinguishes between fact and opinion. Some of the PSHE teachers have also received RSE training by the county and/or from Brooke Training which is reviewed and updated regularly to keep our expertise current.

It is an important part of our vision for the school that our RSE curriculum is inclusive and we place equal curriculum time on non-heteronormative relationships and provide positive imagery of diverse family/relationship situations across the school.

To that end our RSE curriculum gives a positive view of human sexuality, with honest and medically accurate information, so that pupils can learn about their bodies and sexual and reproductive health in ways that are appropriate to their age and maturity.

RSE also gives time and opportunity for students to reflect on values and influences of the modern world (such as from peers, media, faith and culture) that may alter their attitudes to relationships and sex. In line with our wider curriculum vision RSE and PSHE also challenge perception and nurture respect for different views.

RSE lessons include learning about how to get help and treatment from local and national health and advice services, including reliable information online such as the Kite Trust. Indeed our delivery of RSE is supported by our pastoral team including a Child Youth Worker and Family Liaison Officer to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students.

Our RSE and PSHE (and beyond) curriculums foster gender equality and LGBTQ+ equality and we encourage all our students to challenge all forms of discrimination in lessons and every-day school life as part of our We Are INSPIRED mantra (Diversity Champions). We also have several students who do not identify as cisgender so it is important to us that we reflect sexual experiences and provide diverse role models.

As referenced in the 2010 Equality Act our RSE and PSHE lessons also protect the needs of pupils with wider diverse experiences – including those with special educational needs and disabilities. It is vital to ensure in particular that all our students to access our RSE lessons so in line with our SEND policy students are supported to access the learning with plans shared with the inclusion team in advance for example to scaffold where needed.

Part of our vision is to teach about tolerance and acceptance of our diverse society British Values are therefore embedded into the RSE and PSHE experience and daily diet at LECA, for example lessons on consent, identity and diversity in the Rights, Responsibilities unit in Year 8. This is helped by our INSPIRED mantra to champion diversity.

As part of our legal requirements we have been working closely with the families of our students. Our parents and carers are made aware of the curriculum on offer by way of parental communication and the full picture is also available here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/psheatleca/welcome>

The PSHE department provides opportunity for consultation and support throughout the academic year but families wishing to exercise their right to withdraw their children from RSE lessons by writing to the head of PSHE Laura Elliott.

It is our intention to include student voice in the design and review of the RSE curriculum as we return to post-Covid experiences. In this way pupils' views (from Student Council, Prefects and Pride Group for example) about RSE can be made relevant to their real lives.