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**LVS** Oxford

Learning without limits

# Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy 2024-2025

**Owner:** Principal

**Consulted with Parents:** September 2021, September 2022 and September 2023

**Written by:** Deputy Headteacher

**Reviewed:** September 2024

**Next Review:** September 2025

## **Aims**

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is part of lifelong learning and preparation for adulthood. In addition, it is an integral part of the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' statutory guidance (2022). At LVS Oxford, our aim is to develop the students' understanding of:

- puberty and sexual development along with the importance of health and hygiene
- the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies
- healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships
- what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend, a good colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship
- the benefits of healthy relationships to their mental wellbeing and self-respect
- human sexuality, LGBT inclusion and the importance of respecting themselves and others
- safe, fulfilling and healthy sexual relationships, at the appropriate time
- what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in relationships is explored as part of the development of students' understanding of consent

LVS Oxford aims to provide a nurturing environment that models and supports positive relationships between all members of the school and community.

### **1. Statutory Requirements**

This school policy is in line with current regulations from the Department of Education's statutory guidance on Relationships and Sex Education, updated September 2021.

LVS Oxford delivers RSE with regards to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' statutory guidance (2023) and the Equality Act 2010 requiring observance of protected characteristics of age, sex, race, disability, religion or belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, marriage or civil partnership and sexual orientation. At LVS Oxford we believe that all people should have access to RSE that is relevant to their particular needs. To achieve this, we will:

- be mindful of preparing for adult outcomes as set out in the SEND Code of Practice, 2014
- be proactive in combating sexism, misogyny, sexualised behaviour and sexist bullying
- foster healthy peer-to-peer communication and behaviour between boys and girls
- promote respect for, and understanding of, the views of different ethnic and cultural and religious groups in line the school's duty to keep students safe
- integrate LGBTQ+ content into the RSE programme rather than a standalone lesson or unit
- actively tackle homophobic bullying

### **2. Policy Development**

It is a statutory requirement that parents are consulted when reviewing and revising the RSE policy; in addition, gathering the views of students and staff is recommended. The consultation and policy development process involves the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff or working group will collate all relevant information including national and local guidance
2. Staff consultation – all school staff will be given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations
3. Parent consultation – parents will be invited to provide feedback
4. Student consultation – through the student council, students will have the opportunity to comment on what they want from their RSE
5. Ratification – once amendments are made, the policy will be shared with governors and ratified

### **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 and Delivery of RSE**

The DFE identifies 5 core elements of a relationship and sex education curriculum (see APPENDIX 1):

- Families
- Respectful relationships
- Online and media
- Being safe
- Intimate and sexual relationships

These elements are revisited and explored in greater depth as the students mature through the school. Care is taken to ensure that the content of the curriculum is age appropriate and accessible for LVS students.

RSE is taught principally through the PSHE curriculum, based on three broad themes:

- Relationships (families, respectful relationships)
- Health and well-being (online and media – digital well-being; intimate and sexual relationships)
- Living in the wider world (Being safe; respectful relationships)

In addition, RSE is integrated into subject areas. For instance, biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in the ASDAN Beliefs and Values course. The PSHE resources selected for our students are drawn from a number of ASDAN courses, including the Life Skills Challenge course, the Key Steps course and the PSHE Short Course. Furthermore, additional resources collated and endorsed by the PSHE Association are included in the curriculum offer.

The pastoral team at LVS Oxford are central to ensuring a supportive framework is in place so that students can participate in sensitive discussions. Sources of support and guidance are signposted. Students also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by trained professionals. Selected resources, materials and external agencies used to deliver the sex education programme operate within the context of the school's guidelines and the RSE Policy. In addition, students have access to the school nurse if they have any questions or concerns. If the need arises, we also run bespoke courses in small groups for students.

### **5. Roles and Responsibilities**

#### ***The governing board***

The governing board will hold the Principal to account for the implementation of this policy.

#### ***The Principal***

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

#### ***Staff***

The PSHE Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw students from components of RSE.

All staff are responsible for:

- delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- monitoring progress
- responding to the needs of individual students

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 Principal.

### **Students**

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

#### **6. Parents' Right to Withdraw**

We recognise the essential role of parents and carers in the development of a child's understanding about relationships and sex. We work in active partnership with parents/carers in the development and review of the RSE.

Parents have the right to request that the Principal withdraw their child from the non-statutory/non-science components of sex education within RSE, up to and until 3 terms before their child turns 16. They do not have a right to withdraw their children from those aspects of RSE that are taught in national curriculum science. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the form found in APPENDIX 2 of this policy and addressed to the Principal. The Principal will discuss the request with parents with the aim of reaching an agreement regarding appropriate action that is in the child's best interests.

#### **7. Staff training**

All new staff will receive a copy of the RSE policy. Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE through our continuing professional development programme. Health professionals may be asked to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

#### **8. Monitoring Arrangements**

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the senior management team and the PSHE co-ordinator through:

- learning walks
- peer observations
- planning reviews
- Student Council feedback
- staff questionnaire/audit

Students' development in RSE is monitored by Form Tutors and the PSHE Co-ordinator as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by the Principal and the Deputy Headteacher on an annual basis. At every review, and following consultation with parents, the policy will be approved by the governing board.

## **APPENDIX 1** *DfE Statutory Guidance, updated September 2021*

### *The core elements of a Relationships and Sex Education curriculum*

#### **By the end of secondary school**

Schools should continue to develop knowledge on topics specified for primary as required and in addition, cover the following content by the end of secondary school.

#### **Families**

##### **Students should know:**

- 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 – for example, 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), how to seek help or advice, including reporting concerns about others, if needed.

#### **Respectful relationships, including friendships**

##### **Students should know:**

- The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships, in all contexts including online, such as:
- 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 (for example, 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.

#### **Online and media**

##### **Students should know:**

- 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, for example 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**

#### **Students should know:**

- 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.

### **Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health**

#### **Students should know:**

- 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, for example 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 and menopause
- 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 and 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

**APPENDIX 2** Parent Form: *Withdrawal from Relationships and Sex Education*

**TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT**

Name of child	Class
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Name of parent	Date
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Please provide reasons for requesting that the Principal withdraw your child from Relationships and Sex Education:

Parent signature:

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**TO BE COMPLETED BY SCHOOL**

Meeting date:	Present:
Agreed actions:	

Parent signature:

Principal's signature:

**Year 7**

Progress  
 Personal development  
 Active citizen  
 Germs  
 Personal hygiene  
 Lifestyle  
 Zones of Regulation  
 Prescribed medicine  
 Puberty  
 Tolerance  
 Study skills

Morals  
 Values  
 Social media  
 Volunteering  
 Conflict resolution

Different families  
 Different relationships  
 Identity  
 Needs  
 Physical activity  
 Mindfulness

Emergencies  
 Emergency response  
 Vaccination  
 Dental hygiene  
 Body awareness  
 British law

Tax  
 Legal and illegal  
 Peer pressure  
 Appropriate relationships

**Year 8**

Qualifications  
 Careers  
 Democracy  
 Social media  
 Sexting  
 Internet safety  
 Cyberbullying  
 Bullying  
 Eating disorders  
 Debt  
 Savings  
 Fraud

Life goals

Family types – nuclear, extended, reconstituted, single parent, same-sex  
 Culture  
 Conflict resolution  
 First aid  
 Vaccination  
 Infections  
 Sleep deprivation  
 Anger management  
 Nicotine  
 Ethanol  
 Addiction  
 Democracy  
 Political parties

Risk taking  
 Failure  
 Comfort zone  
 Passion  
 Green consumer  
 Vocab relating to puberty

Stress triggers  
 Stress reduction strategies  
 Community citizenship  
 Generations  
 Competing for your country (Olympics 2021)

**Year 9**

Human rights  
 Protection  
 Social and cultural pressures  
 Lifelong learning  
 Careers  
 Personal interests  
 Social enterprises  
 Volunteering

Dependency  
 Hormones  
 Safe sex  
 Budgeting  
 Employment rights  
 Security risks

Skills for employment  
 Personal development plan  
 Financial exploitation  
 Leisure time



Balanced lifestyle

Depression

Anxiety

Self-harm

Self-care

Community support

Sexual diversity

Nutritional value

Low cost meals

Rule of law

Criminal justice system

Asylum seekers

Refugees

Human rights

### Year 10

Self-awareness

Personal development

Money management

Respectful relationships

Consent

Coercion

Harassment

Human rights issues

Moral obligations

Environmental protection

Energy recovery facilities

Green economy

Personal responsibility

Sexually transmitted infections

Mental health awareness

Miscarriage

Social media pressure

Abortion

Contraception

Responding in emergencies

Raising the alarm

Neighbourly behaviour

Benefits of being a donor

Multicultural landscape in Britain

Diversity

Democracy

Dictatorship

Sexual diversity

Pornography

Respectful relationships

Nutritional value

Eating for physical and mental wellbeing

Philanthropic businesses

Volunteering

Psychological impact of helping others

### Year 11

Financial planning at different life stages

Income/savings streams

Attitudes to risk

Monitoring expenditure

Aid projects at home and abroad

Personal hygiene into adulthood

Risky behaviour

Sexual health

Technology for a greener world

Think locally act globally

Energy recovery technology

Preventative action

Tools to safeguard mental health

Home/workplace safety

Health advisory services

Oxfordshire Sexual Health Services

Global human rights

Legal protection in the UK

Criminal justice system

Cyber-crimes and scams

London stock exchange

FTSE 100

Consumer spending

Consumer watchdogs

Medical emergencies

Addiction support

Self-image

Controversial

Cosmetic surgery

House of Commons

House of Lords

Local/District Councils

Religious/cultural beliefs around marriage

Best diets for longevity

Role models and influencers

Concept of giving back to society

Importance of having goals