

Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy (from January 2021)

Laycock Primary School



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1. Aims

At Laycock Primary School our ethos is to embed positive models of understanding, respect, good manners and behaviour in all we do so that Laycock Primary School and all the people in it are proud of where they belong. We incorporate the six principles of Nurturing Schools ¹ into all our practice so as to provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning and working environment for all. We promote and foster trusting and friendly relationships within the community so that we work together for the good of the children.

The aims of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) at our school are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place;
- Prepare pupils for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene;
- Help pupils develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy;
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships;
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.

The six Principles of Nurture are:

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally;
 2. The classroom offers a safe base;
 3. We understand the importance of nurture for the development of well-being;
 4. We know that language is a vital means of communication;
 5. We understand that all behaviour is communication;
 6. We acknowledge the importance of transition in children's lives.
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2. Statutory requirements

As a primary academy school we must provide relationships education to all pupils as per section 34 of the [Children and Social work act 2017](#).

At Laycock Primary School, we do not have to follow the National Curriculum but we are expected to offer all pupils a curriculum that is similar to the National Curriculum. This includes the requirement to teach science which includes the elements of sex education contained in the science curriculum. Parents do **not** have the right to withdraw their children from this curriculum content delivery.

In teaching RSHE, we are required by our funding agreements to have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At Laycock Primary School we teach RSHE as set out in this policy.

3. Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – a member of staff collated all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance.
2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations.
3. Governor consultation – Governors were consulted over the draft policy and curriculum content prior to consultation with parents / carers and any other interested parties.
4. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to ask questions of and make comments about the policy and proposed curriculum content via an online consultation process.
5. Pupil consultation – pupils will be consulted about what they would like from their RSHE curriculum and adaptations made as appropriate.
6. Ratification.

4. Definition

RSHE **is** about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity. It is about knowledge gathering, empathy and tolerance.

RSHE involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues and values.

RSHE is **not** about the promotion of sexual activity, sexual orientation or religious beliefs.

5. Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 but we may need to adapt it as and when necessary.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, governors, pupils and staff, taking into account the age, needs and feelings of pupils. If pupils 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.

Primary sex education is **not** compulsory in primary schools. At Laycock Primary School we do **not** offer additional content on sex education over and above that delivered within the Science statutory curriculum and the statutory Health Curriculum content. Puberty content is taught in years 4, 5 and 6 through the themes of 'It's My Body' and 'Growing Up' and parents will be informed prior to curriculum delivery, but **do not** have the right to withdraw their children from this element of curriculum delivery. This content is taught as follows:

- Year 4 – About the physical and emotional changes that happen when approaching and during puberty, (including menstruation for girls);
- Year 5 – Preparing boys and girls for the changes that adolescence brings.
- Year 6 – How the process of puberty relates to human reproduction.

6. Delivery of RSHE

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

Biological aspects of RSHE are taught within the science and health curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

In years 5 and 6, pupils also receive stand-alone puberty sessions, delivered by a trained health professional where possible.

As with all elements of our curriculum, consideration is given to those pupils with additional needs at the point of lesson planning. This is to ensure that all pupils' needs are met at a developmental level and, where necessary, age-appropriate content is delivered in a cognitively appropriate manner for the individual, taking into account knowledge of the individual's specific needs.

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

Sex education focuses on teaching the basics of

- Puberty (also included in the Health statutory curriculum)
- Conception and birth

For more information about our RSHE 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).

7. Roles and responsibilities

7.1 The governing board

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

7.2 The headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSHE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory/non-science or non-health components of RSHE (see section 8).

7.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

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

- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory/non-science or non-health components of RSHE.

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

Those responsible for teaching RSHE in school are:

Y1/2 – Mrs Corinne Thornton

Y3/4 – Mrs Sarah Myers

Y5/6 – Mrs Kate Taylor

7.4 Pupils

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

8. Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from relationships and health education.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory/non-science and non-health components of sex education within Year 5/6 RSHE.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing using the Notice of Withdrawal form found in Appendix 2 of this policy and addressed to the headteacher.

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

At Laycock Primary School, there is no non-statutory curriculum content and therefore no right to withdraw children from curriculum delivery.

9. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSHE 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 RSHE.

10. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSHE is monitored by the headteacher through:

Scrutiny of planning, lesson observations, pupil conversations and work scrutiny.

Pupils' development in RSHE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal assessment systems.

This policy will be reviewed by staff annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing body.

Appendix 1: Curriculum map

Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum map – highlighted units include RSHE content and detail is given below

PSHCE and Relationships – Cycle A – 2020/2021

Autumn Term:

Relationships – Be Yourself

Relationships – TEAMS

Spring Term:

Health & Wellbeing – Safety First

Health & Wellbeing – **It's My Body - Puberty content**

Summer Term:

Living in the Wider World – Money Matters

Living in the Wider World – Diverse Britain

PSHCE and Relationships – Cycle B – 2021/2022

Autumn Term:

Relationships – VIPs

Spring Term:

Health & Wellbeing – Growing Up - Puberty Content

Health & Wellbeing – Think Positive

Summer Term:

Living in the Wider World – Aiming High

Living in the Wider World – One World

Appendix 2: Parent form: Notice of Withdrawal from sex education within RSHE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Year group	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from Year 5 or Year 6 sex education within Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL	
Agreed actions from discussion with parents	