

## Sex and Relationships Education Policy

### Aim of the Academy

To provide unique an outstanding education for every child in the trust through high aspirations and through the principles of quality learning using curiosity, exploration and discovery.

This policy is to be linked with The Langley Academy Child Protection Policy

### Principles

The Langley Academy Trust has a duty to provide the moral perspective of sex education and the value of family life as a framework for personal development.

We believe that parents and carers are the key figures in helping their children to cope with the physical and emotional aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings. The teaching offered at The Langley Academy should be complementary and supportive to the role of the parent/carer. Since some parents/carers may not feel able to discuss sexual matters fully and freely with their children, schools have a clear responsibility to ensure that students are adequately prepared for adult life.

The Langley Academy Trust believes that schools' programmes of sex education should therefore aim to present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner, set within a clear framework of values and an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour. Students will be encouraged to appreciate the value of stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood.

### Purposes

- To identify the level of prior knowledge and understanding of students in order to explore and cater for their specific needs
- To develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide students' judgements, decisions and behaviour.
- To provide opportunities for students to understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity.
- To enable students to understand the reasons for having protected sex.
- To provide opportunities for students to understand the consequences of actions and encourage them to behave responsibly within sexual relationships and friendships.
- To encourage students to develop self confidence and self-esteem.
- To encourage students to value themselves and others.
- To ensure that students have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and their partner (where they have one) from unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

- To provide opportunities for students to learn skills which will enable them to avoid being exploited or prevent them from exploiting others as well as avoid being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.
- To equip students with knowledge to enable them to access confidential sexual health advice, support and if necessary treatment.
- To give knowledge to students concerning how the law applies to sexual relationships.
- To provide accurate and balanced information about the social, emotional and physical aspects of human sexual behaviour.
- To have a clear understanding of all modern methods of contraception.
- To provide adequate and relevant information to enable students of all abilities to make informed decisions.
- To ensure that every student is given equal opportunities irrespective of their sex, colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin or religion.

### Guidelines

- In delivering sex education, schools are currently required to have regard to the Sex and Relationship Education Guidance, published in 2000. The current statutory provisions on sex education are contained in sections 403 and 405 of the Education Act 1996 as amended. The Government's Education White Paper, The Importance of Teaching, published in November 2010, stated:  
*Children need high-quality sex and relationships education so they can make wise and informed choices. We will work with teachers, parents, faith groups and campaign groups, such as Stonewall to make sure sex and relationships education encompasses an understanding of the ways in which humans love each other and stresses the importance of respecting individual autonomy. **Parents' rights to withdraw a child from SRE** Section 405 of the Education Act 1996 enables parents to withdraw their children from sex education other than the sex education that is in the National Curriculum (such as the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are essential elements of National Curriculum Science).*
- Sex and Relationship Education is part of a planned programme with specialist teachers delivering Health and Science aspects of the programme. Parents/Carers will be informed when this unit is about to be taught and parents/carers will have the option to withdraw their child if they feel that this is appropriate. Parents/carers do not have to give reasons for their decision; nor do they have to indicate what other arrangements they intend to make for providing sex education for their children. Parents/carers do not have the right to withdraw their child from aspects of sex education which are included in the National Curriculum Statutory Order for Science. The effect of this Order will be to prohibit the teaching of any materials on AIDS, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases or any aspects, other than biological aspects of human sexual behaviour.
- Factual content of Sex and Relationship Education will be delivered via the RPS curriculum. Outside agencies will be brought in as outlined:

Agency	Area to be delivered
School Nurse	The importance of self-examination.
Wexham Park Hospital	Contraception and where to access help/advice.
Wexham Park Hospital	Sexually Transmitted Infections.
Teenage Pregnancy Unit	Understanding the consequence of actions and the responsibility of family.

Other aspects of SRE will be delivered within Science and RPS

### **Confidentiality and Child Protection**

Students may confide in a member of staff concerning their personal problems. In such cases, staff should declare, in advance, a contract to the effect that they are only willing to accept such confidence on condition that they are trusted to use the information given in the best interests of the child. All child protection concerns should be discussed with the Child Protection Officer.

Particular care must be exercised in relation to contraceptive advice to students under 16, for whom sexual intercourse is unlawful. To give individual advice on such matters without parental consent would be an inappropriate exercise of a teacher's professional responsibilities. Accordingly a teacher approached by a student for specific advice on contraception should encourage the student to seek advice from his/her parents/carers, and if appropriate from their GP or school nurse.

### **Moral and Values Statement**

Through the sex and relationship education programme we aim to prepare our young people for an adult life in which they can make informed choices with which they feel comfortable. In order to achieve this, students will be given specific content covering contraceptives, STIs, consequences of specific choices and will be given opportunities to develop self-esteem and assertiveness skills. We will encourage students in our care to understand the importance of delaying sexual activity and how to develop a healthy, safer lifestyle. Students will be given opportunities to learn about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children. Students will be encouraged to appreciate the value of a stable family life. They will be helped to consider the importance of self-restraint, dignity, respect for themselves and others' sexual orientation, acceptance of responsibility, loyalty and fidelity.

### **Ground rules for the delivery of SRE**

It is essential that ground rules are clearly communicated to all students when dealing with sex and relationships education. The most important one is the confidentiality factor. Students and staff should only make references in the third person, for example, "Would Year 10 students have experienced a or b." No names should be mentioned and students should be told that they should not ask direct questions of their teachers personally. Correct scientific language should always be used.

### **Dissemination of the Policy**

This policy will be made available to parents/carers upon request. Parents/carers will be informed of this in writing prior to the onset of the sex and relationships education programme. Parents will also be informed of their right to withdraw their child from this programme within the same letter. However certain lessons are mandatory under the National Curriculum Science and are excluded from the right of parents/carers to withdraw their children. Such lessons specifically refer to the biological aspects of human sexual behaviour.

The programme of study for sex education will demonstrate:

Progression: This extends from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 to 6<sup>th</sup> Form with language, concepts and content increasing in depth and complexity as students mature physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

Relevance and differentiation: As teachers come to know the levels of development of their students, they are able to draw out existing knowledge and needs and they are able to build on these appropriately.

Integration: Sex education will be integrated into other relevant areas of the Academy curriculum.

Sex education will not be isolated, taken out of context or over-emphasised in any way.

## **Review**

The sex and relationship education programme will be reviewed annually by the Co-ordinator of the RPS Programme, in conjunction with the Relevant Partner Governor, according to current statutes and guidance of the National Curriculum and national and local Health Education documents. It may be helpful when considering this document, and to gain a broader picture, to consider the academy's policies on: Health Education, Citizenship Policy, Child Protection, Diversity and Behaviour. Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out within the academy's accepted procedures.

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