

# Lansdowne Turney Federation

## Relationships and Sex Education Policy

### Lansdowne School



**Adopted: December 2025**

**Review Date: December 2026**

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### 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 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.

### 2. Statutory requirements

Lansdowne School:

As a maintained SEND secondary school, we must provide RSE to all pupils as per 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](#).

### 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 or working group pulled together 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. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy.
4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their RSE.
5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

## 4. Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, 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.

## 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, 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 do not seek answers online.

For more information about our curriculum, see our curriculum map in Appendix 1.

## 6. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

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 our RSE curriculum, see Appendices 1 and 2.

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).

RSE takes place within mixed gender classes or single gender groups as deemed appropriate and relevant with the pupil's usual teacher. There may be times when choosing particular mixes of genders may be useful. It is important to note that although separated genders may have different activities on occasions, the messages and information they receive will be consistent.

## **7. Roles and responsibilities**

### **7.1 The governing board**

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

### **7.2 The headteacher**

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the school, and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from non-statutory/non-science components of RSE (see section 9).

### **7.3 Staff**

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory/non-science 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.

### **7.4 Pupils**

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

## **8. Online sexual harassment**

A whole school, joined-up approach is in place to tackle online sexual harassment amongst young people and to support victims. This includes dedicated PSHE and RSE sessions, themes and assemblies. Moreover, this approach seeks to support senior leaders in ensuring that:

- All school staff understand what 'online sexual harassment' means.
- A whole-school approach is embedded so that young people understand what 'online sexual harassment' is, instances of online sexual harassment are prevented from occurring, and victims are empowered to report perpetrators.
- All staff are equipped with the knowledge needed to deal with disclosures.
- Curriculum in RSE and other subjects addresses issues related to online sexual harassment, including ensuring young people understand what constitutes online sexual harassment, their rights and how to seek support.

## 9. Parents' right to withdraw

RSE is an important part of our curriculum and it is hoped that all pupils will participate in all aspects of these lessons. However, the school acknowledges the legal rights of parents/carers as described below:

From September 2020, parents **will not** be able to withdraw their children from any aspect of Relationships Education or Health Education (which includes learning about the changing adolescent body and puberty).

Parents **will not** be able to withdraw their child from any aspect of the National Curriculum for Science (which includes subject content such as the names of external body parts, the human body as it grows from birth to old age, and reproduction/off-spring in some plants and animals AND reproduction in humans and plants, methods of contraception, communicable diseases including sexually transmitted infections in humans).

Parents **will be** able to withdraw their child (following discussion with the school and providing notification to the Headteacher in writing) from any or all aspects of Sex Education (other than those as listed above) up to and until three terms before the age of 16.

In line with the statutory guidance, where pupils are withdrawn from Sex Education, we will keep a record of this (including discussions/requests from parents/carers) and we will ensure that the pupil receives appropriate, purposeful education during the period of withdrawal.

In line with the statutory guidance, if any secondary-aged pupil wishes to receive Sex Education rather than be withdrawn, we will make arrangements to provide the pupil with Sex Education during one of the three terms before the age of 16.

## 10. Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction 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 RSE.

## 11. Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSE is monitored by the RSE Team through:

- planning scrutinies
- learning walks
- book looks
- discussions with students

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

This policy will be reviewed by the Deputy Headteacher of the school annually. At every review, the policy will be approved by the governing board.

## Appendix 1: Curriculum map

### Relationships and sex education curriculum map

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS
Year 7	Summer 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of relationships</li> <li>• Caring about family and friends</li> <li>• Body Parts – Introduction to using appropriate names</li> <li>• Differentiating between private and public places</li> <li>• Acceptable and unacceptable physical contact</li> <li>• Body Changes – Introduction to puberty body changes</li> </ul>
Year 8	Summer 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to promote positive relationships</li> <li>• Different types of families</li> <li>• Body Parts – Male and female body parts</li> <li>• Acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in private and public places</li> <li>• Puberty Changes for Girls</li> <li>• Puberty Changes for Boys</li> </ul>
Year 9	Summer 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Becoming a parent – Values and skills</li> <li>• Sexual orientation / Gender Identity – Definitions and acceptance</li> <li>• Consent</li> <li>• Puberty and emotions</li> <li>• Asking for help – People I can trust</li> </ul>

YEAR GROUP	TERM	TOPIC/THEME DETAILS
Year 10	Summer 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Becoming a parent -</li> <li>• Sexual orientation / Gender Identity</li> <li>• Reproduction</li> <li>• My body and the media</li> <li>• Puberty and emotions</li> <li>• Advice organisations</li> </ul>
Year 12 & 13	Summer 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of contraception</li> <li>• Sexually transmitted infections</li> <li>• Gender Identity – Sexual Orientation</li> <li>• Acceptable and unacceptable physical contact</li> <li>• Organisations that provide support</li> </ul>

## Appendix 2: By the end of secondary school pupils should know

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That there are different types of committed, stable relationships</li> <li>• How these relationships might contribute to human happiness and their importance for bringing up children</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Why marriage is an important relationship choice for many couples and why it must be freely entered into</li> <li>• The characteristics and legal status of other types of long-term relationships</li> <li>• The roles and responsibilities of parents with respect to raising of children, including the characteristics of successful parenting</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
Respectful relationships, including friendships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships</li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help</li> <li>• That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control</li> <li>• What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Online and media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online, including that the same expectations of behaviour apply in all contexts, including online</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Not to provide material to others that they would not want shared further and not to share personal material which is sent to them</li> <li>• What to do and where to get support to report material or manage issues online</li> <li>• The impact of viewing harmful content</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• That sharing and viewing indecent images of children (including those created by children) is a criminal offence which carries severe penalties including jail</li> <li>• How information and data is generated, collected, shared and used online</li> </ul>
Being safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The concepts of, and laws relating to, sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, virginity testing and hymenoplasty, forced marriage, honour-based violence and FGM, and how these can affect current and future relationships</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>

TOPIC	PUPILS SHOULD KNOW
Intimate and sexual relationships, including sexual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• The facts about reproductive health, including fertility and the potential impact of lifestyle on fertility for men and women</li> <li>• That there are a range of strategies for identifying and managing sexual pressure, including understanding peer pressure, resisting pressure and not pressurising others</li> <li>• That they have a choice to delay sex or to enjoy intimacy without sex</li> <li>• The facts about the full range of contraceptive choices, efficacy and options available</li> <li>• The facts around pregnancy including miscarriage</li> <li>• 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)</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• About the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they can have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment</li> <li>• How the use of alcohol and drugs can lead to risky sexual behaviour</li> <li>• How to get further advice, including how and where to access confidential sexual and reproductive health advice and treatment</li> </ul>

### Appendix 3: Parent form: withdrawal from sex education within RSE



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TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS			
Name of child		Class	
Name of parent		Date	
Reason for withdrawing from sex education within relationships and sex education			
Any other information you would like the school to consider			
Parent signature			

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

## Policy History

Date reviewed by governors	Autumn 2025
Next review by governors	Autumn 2026

Chair of Governors:

Signed:

Date: