



**RADLETT LODGE SCHOOL LOCAL PROCEDURE FOR:**  
**Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)**

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**1. Aims**

All children are entitled to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). New Government guidance on Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education (2019) is clear that these statutory subjects must be accessible for all pupils - including disabled pupils and those with special education needs (SEND).

The objective of Relationships and Sex Education is to enable pupils to learn about:

- (i) families and people who care for them, including the nature of marriage and civil partnership and their importance for family life and the bringing up of children,
- (ii) Forming and maintaining caring relationships,
- (iii) The characteristics of healthy and respectful relationships, including online,
- (iv) How relationships may affect physical and mental health and wellbeing, and how to ensure they are safe,
- (v) At an age and developmentally appropriate level, intimate and sexual relationships including sexual health.

## Radlett Lodge RSE

- Lessons start at an age and developmentally appropriate time, and are relevant to pupils at each stage in their development and maturity
- Is taught by people who are trained and confident in talking about issues such as healthy and unhealthy relationships, equality, pleasure, respect, abuse, sexuality, gender identity, sex and consent
- Staff deliver content that includes the acquisition of knowledge, the development of life skills and respectful attitudes and values
- Staff help pupils understand on and offline safety, consent, violence and exploitation
- Content delivered is both medically and factually correct and treats sex as a normal fact of life
- Content is inclusive of difference: gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, culture, age, faith or belief, or other life experience
- Lessons help pupils understand a range of views and beliefs about relationships and sex in 3 society including some of the mixed messages about gender, sex and sexuality from different sources including the media
- Lessons teach pupils about the law and their rights to confidentiality even if they are under 16, and is linked to school-based and community health services and organisations.
- Lessons promote equality in relationships
- Reflects girls' and boys' different experiences and needs.

## **2. Statutory requirements**

The statutory guidance on Relationships, Sex and Health Education published by the Department for Education can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

This document states that while 'statutory requirement to provide Health Education does not apply to independent schools – PSHE (personal, social health and economic education) is already compulsory as independent schools must meet the Independent School Standards as set out in the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014. Independent schools, however, may find the principles in the guidance on Health Education helpful in planning an age-appropriate curriculum.'

With this in mind at Radlett Lodge School we use the guidance as a framework to ensure we provide a broad and balance curriculum tailored specifically to our pupils' needs. We do this in a proactive manner which allows for our pupils to be the best versions of themselves that they can be. We recognise the need to 'tailor content and teaching to meet the specific needs of pupils at different developmental stages' and 'ensure that [our] teaching is sensitive, age-appropriate, developmentally appropriate and delivered with reference to the law' as stated within the above guidance.

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT)

The above guidance also references the need to ensure that the needs of all pupils are appropriately met and that pupils understand the importance of equality and respect. Schools must ensure that they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010 under which sexual orientation and gender reassignment are amongst the protected characteristics. Pupils should receive teaching on LGBT content during their school years. Teaching children about the society that we live in and the different types of loving, healthy relationships that exist can be done in a way that respects everyone.

At Radlett Lodge our curriculum is bespoke to our students. We ensure that the content is delivered at a time which is developmentally and age appropriate in a sensitive manner. We also acknowledge the need for this content to be delivered in a range of different ways throughout the pupils' time at Radlett Lodge School (as opposed to a stand-alone lesson) to support pupils' understanding and acquisition of knowledge. Content surrounding the LGBT community will be taught as part of our Relationships Education which will be referenced throughout the curriculum. Content will include different types of families we see in society, different types of relationships pupils may encounter and celebrating difference.

## Right to Withdraw

Parents have the right to request permission from the Principal (Stuart Mainwaring) that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. However, up to three terms before your child turns 16, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, we are required to make arrangements for this to happen in one of the three terms before the child turns 16 - the legal age of sexual consent.

There is no right to withdraw from content taught in science relating to body parts, bodily changes, puberty, reproduction and birth. There is no right to withdraw from Relationships Education at primary or secondary; the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety)

### **3. Content and delivery**

#### - What is Relationships Education?

Relationships Education will put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships, including with family, friends and online. Your child will be taught what a relationship is, what friendship is, what family means and who can support them in an age-appropriate way. At Radlett Lodge we acknowledge the challenges our pupils can face surrounding relationships and recognise the importance of explicitly teaching and modelling how to treat each other with kindness, consideration and respect in ways that work for our pupils. We recognise that this may look slightly different for each of our pupils, but through developing

strong, positive relationships we are able to identify areas of need where we can support understanding and encourage pupils to be the best versions of themselves. This will help pupils understand the positive effects that good relationships can have on their mental wellbeing, identify when relationships are not right and understand how such situations can be managed.

As in primary, secondary Relationships Education can be underpinned by a wider, deliberate cultivation and practice of resilience and character in the individual. These include character traits such as belief in achieving goals and persevering with tasks, as well as personal attributes such as honesty, integrity, courage, kindness, trustworthiness and a sense of justice, underpinned by an understanding of the importance of self-respect and self-worth.

### - What is Sex Education?

Effective RSE does not encourage early sexual experimentation. It teaches young people to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others. It enables young people to mature, build their confidence and self-esteem and understand the concepts of public and private actions and spaces.

Effective RSE also supports people, throughout life, to develop safe, fulfilling and healthy sexual relationships, at the appropriate time.

Knowledge about safer sex and sexual health remains important to ensure that young people are equipped to make safe, informed and healthy choices as they progress through adult life. This is delivered in a non-judgemental, factual way and allow scope for young people to ask questions in a safe environment.

The delivery of this content may look different for each pupil depending on their developmental stage and level of understanding. Consent is an essential thread that is woven throughout the curriculum starting within the early years all the way through to our post 16 classes.

### - Content covered

At Radlett Lodge we follow a spiral curriculum on two pathways (Pathway 1 and Pathway 2).

This means pupils will revisit the topics and build on their prior knowledge throughout their time at Radlett Lodge School:

Pupils on Pathway 1 are taught these topics within our Relationships Education:

- Playing and working together
- People who are special to us
- Things we are good at
- Kind and unkind behaviour
- Trust
- Keeping safe online

- Different types of relationships (family, friendship etc.)
- Community
- Respecting differences between people
- Jobs people do
- Rules and Laws

Pupils on Pathway 1 are taught these topics within our Sex education:

- Public and private
- Keeping safe (including online)
- Trust
- Consent (in a range of different contexts – e.g. asking before you hug someone)
- Changes at puberty
- Baby to adult
- Dealing with touch and appropriate touch
- Rules and laws

Pupils on Pathway 2 are taught these topics within RSE:

- Personal strengths
- Managing pressure
- Skills for learning
- Prejudice and discrimination
- Emergency situations
- Friendship
- Keeping safe online
- Strong feelings
- Romantic feelings and sexual attraction
- Self-esteem and unkind comments
- Long term relationships and parenthood
- Healthy/unhealthy relationship behaviours
- Puberty
- Intimate relationships, consent and contraception
- Body image
- Managing online information
- Preparing for adulthood
- Diversity, rights and responsibilities

- Language and terminology we use and why

At Radlett Lodge we use correct terminology for body parts including penis, testicles, vagina and nipples. All pupils have the right to understand and discuss their own bodies. This also ensures that pupils have the vocabulary to explain if something hurts, or has happened to a private body part therefore enhancing their safety and our responsibility to safeguard our pupils.

**4. Roles and responsibilities**

The RSE lead is responsible for monitoring the breadth of content to ensure that it is in line with new government expectations.

Each teacher at Radlett Lodge school delivers RSE to their own class. This ensures pupils feel safe and comfortable with familiar members of staff when discussing sensitive topics.

This is done in consultation with our transdisciplinary team including positive behaviour support, Educational Psychologist, Occupational Therapist and speech and language therapists.

## **5. Assessment, recording and reporting**

Please see the Radlett Lodge School Local Procedure for Assessment, Recording and Reporting which can be found on our website here:

<https://www.autism.org.uk/our-schools/radlett-lodge/about-us/policies-procedures>

The Radlett Lodge School Local Procedure for 'Marking and Homework' should be read in conjunction with:

### NAS POLICIES:

Advocacy Policy

Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Policy

Supported Home Learning Policy

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

### RADLETT LODGE SCHOOL LOCAL PROCEDURES:

Curriculum

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Anti-Bullying

Teaching and Learning

Personal, Social, Health and Economics