



Working together to develop the skills for success in industry and university

Specialists in science, technology, engineering and maths
in partnership with industry and the University of Lincoln

Sex and Relationships Education Policy

Lincoln UTC's programme for sex and relationship education aims to support students in developing happy, healthy, and safe lifestyles and in making informed decisions. It includes learning about physical and emotional development and sex, sexuality, and sexual health. It seeks to enhance the self-worth and confidence of each individual and encourage mutually respectful relationships. It encourages debate and reflection on the moral and ethical considerations linked to the choices we make and the way we behave in our relationships with others.

There are three key strands.

Attitudes and values

- Respect for self and others, including those whose views may be different from our own
- Exploration of moral and ethical dilemmas
- Development of critical thinking
- Understanding of the benefits of stable and loving relationships (both heterosexual and same sex)
- Appreciation of the value of family life (and the wide variety of different family types)

Personal and social skills

- Self-confidence, self-esteem, and a resilience to influence from peer pressure and social media
- The ability to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- Making mature, personal, informed choices with responsibility

Knowledge and understanding

- Physical development, puberty, and reproductive biology
- Factual understanding of contraceptive methods and avoidance of unplanned pregnancy
- Information on support available from sexual health services
- Reasons for, and benefits of, delaying sexual activity
- Causes of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDs
- How to keep safe from sexually transmitted infections
- Abortion
- The law relating to sex and sexual behaviour
- Faith perspectives on sex, relationships, contraception, and abortion
- Risks to young people whilst on-line

Delivery

The majority of students' sex and relationships education happens during the weekly life guidance lessons. In these lessons, information will be shared, and issues will be explored in a frank and open way where students are encouraged to share their views and to listen, respectfully, to the views of others. Teachers will not give individual advice to students but will ensure that they are signposted to the appropriate external agencies who are able to do so.

Some aspects of sex and relationships education are delivered as part of the science curriculum, including sexually transmitted infection, contraception and pregnancy. Science lessons also explore ethical considerations related to fertility, medical intervention, and modern technologies.

Key messages relating to respect, consent and to eradicating harmful sexual behaviours feature prominently in our assembly programme. They are underpinned by visiting speakers and workshops run by external agencies.

We have a long-standing partnership with a charitable organisation called 'You before Two'. This is a charity created (by Dr Rebecca Foljambe in 2019) to deliver ***“relevant, frank and empowering educational films and workshops to secondary school aged children on issues such as sexual consent, healthy relationships, mental resilience, family planning and safety online.”***

Many of the video resources and workshops offered by Dr Foljambe and her colleagues were piloted and developed here at Lincoln UTC. Dr Foljambe delivers these workshops (in person) to Lincoln UTC students in year 10 and 11.

The video resources produced by 'You before Two' are available for parents and carers to view online via their website www.youbeforetwo.co.uk

Lincoln UTC students benefit from a more personal delivery. The videos do, however, provide parents with an opportunity to see the frank, mature and 'no nonsense' approach and delivery style... an approach which mirrors what we try to achieve in sessions run by our own staff.

Right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw students from sex education lessons. This right does not include withdrawing students from the compulsory science curriculum or from 'life guidance' lessons on relationships, respect for others and appropriate behaviour (challenging harmful sexual attitudes and behaviours).

Any parent/carer wishing to withdraw a child from the sex education programme should inform the principal, in writing, of their decision to exercise this right.

Online safety

Our students are growing up in an increasingly complex world and spending their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents them with many advantages and opportunities but also poses many challenges and risks. Our aim is to help students to stay safe online, to think carefully about their own digital footprint and to act responsibly in terms of what information and imagery they choose to share. We want all of our students to be aware of the online dangers from those who would groom or exploit young people. This is a prominent and recurring theme in our sex and relationship education programme. Our consideration of the online world includes frank discussion (without associated images) of the risks and harm that can stem from pornography. It also considers how the prevalence of sexualised imagery may perpetuate harmful stereotypes and harmful sexual behaviours and attitudes.

Respect for all

Our exploration of happy, healthy and loving relationships includes LGBT+ friendships and partnerships. Students are encouraged to explore and discuss their personal views and society's treatment of LGBT individuals in a tolerant, respectful, and accepting environment, where any prejudice or discrimination will be robustly challenged. Lincoln UTC respect the rights of all students to make their own decisions on their preferred names and pronouns. We will always be guided by our students on this and follow their wishes. Our dress code is supportive of any student who is trans gender or questioning, who may wish to express their gender identity through dress code choices.

When we discuss family life and the importance of stable loving relationships we include the widest possible range of different family types including two parent, single parent, same sex and kinship caring.

Safeguarding and child protection

The nature of relationships and sex education means that students may disclose personal information. The classroom is not a confidential place to talk. Students will be reminded that these lessons are not the place to discuss personal experiences or issues. Any information which is disclosed to a teacher or other member of staff, which raises a concern about the student's well-being or safety will be communicated as soon as possible to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, in line with our safeguarding policy.

External visitors who contribute to our relationships and sex education programme will be required to adhere to this policy and to our safeguarding policy. The content of any presentations or workshops will be quality assured to check that it is compliant with our policy and with the values and key messages which underpin them... in advance of delivery. External visitors will always be accompanied by Lincoln UTC staff members.

It is inevitable that controversial issues will occur as part of our relationship and sex education programme. We discuss divorce, rape, sexual abuse, and abortion. Some students may find these discussions upsetting, particularly if there is some personal resonance or family context that the teacher may be unaware of. Teachers will always make it clear that students are free to opt out of individual sessions or discussions if they are uncomfortable. Members of our pastoral support team are always available to provide a safe space for any student who wants or needs to leave a session, and to offer or signpost support, as appropriate.

Policy review date

February 2023



21.03.2023



21.03.2023