



"Where every person matters"

MD/ab

September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Redwood Secondary School

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LIFESKILLS Curriculum at Redwood

At Redwood Secondary School we believe it is important that all young people receive informed, balanced information regarding building and maintaining meaningful relationships in their life.

This academic year as part of the LifeSkills curriculum, pupils will cover a range of PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) topics within their Life Skills lessons, through assemblies and LOTC (learning outside the classroom) opportunities.

The depth and range of information studied will be dependent upon their level of understanding and whether the content is age appropriate. Additional support will be available from suitable staff such as the Learning Mentor if a need is identified.

At Redwood school we encourage students to adopt healthy relationships with their peers, other adults in their lives and their family. Throughout all aspects of the school life, we aim to holistically teach and demonstrate how to be a part of respectful relationships. This will include: heterosexual relationships, relationships/ beliefs shared by specific cultures and religions, as well as ensuring we represent the LGBT community. We do not encourage sexual behaviours nor specific types of relationships. We simply offer students a wider understanding of relationships to help them make informed decisions.

Depending on student's ability and understanding we may also prepare them to enter sexual relationships in the future (year 9 and 11). Dependent upon individual needs and appropriateness learning intentions are selected by staff. Lesson objectives can range from appropriate and inappropriate touch, to ensuring you are safe during different types of sexual intercourse.

We also use outside agencies to help support us such as Barnardos and Rochdale sexual health team (VirginCare). These agencies are specifically trained to work with young people and offer a wealth of knowledge and expertise.

You may still choose to withdraw your child from the sexual aspects of the relationships sessions up until starting year 12 (year 11 from Sept 2020) by speaking directly to the Head Teacher, however this is strongly discouraged as we feel it is a fundamental part of growing up





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and will help to ensure all of our students are able to embark upon safe relationships in the future.

A range of topics that could also be covered in Lifeskills sessions and in presentations by outside agencies include:

- Respecting differences in religion, race and sexual orientation
- Animal Care (supervised contact with animals at all times)
- Accessing the Community
- Personal Hygiene (Washing their body, cleaning and cutting nails)
- Drugs and Alcohol awareness (where age appropriate)
- Loss and Bereavement

Please also see the school website for more information on how we are planning to prepare the young people for adulthood.

As part of the curriculum we also now have school pets. These include bearded dragon lizards and a red foot tortoise. Students will work with staff to learn how to safely care for animals and develop their nurturing skills. All students will be supervised when working with the animals and the animals are kept in secure habitats at all other times.

Please feel free to contact the school and speak to Mr Dale (Curriculum Lead – LifeSkills) should you wish to discuss the LifeSkills curriculum or any of its content in more detail or you have any questions/concerns regarding your child having access to the LifeSkills curriculum at Redwood.

Yours sincerely

Ms C John
Headteacher