

Learning For Life (LfL) Curriculum

At Culford, the Learning for Life Curriculum encompasses both Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) and Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), in line with Government guidance on compulsory content for those in secondary education.

Adolescence is a time when young people undergo major transitions and begin to develop autonomy and independence. At the same time they are expected to cope with: academic and social pressures; changing dynamics in relationships with family and friends; increasing exposure to such 'adult' concerns as the Internet, drugs, drinking, sexual relationships and sexuality. Learning for Life (LfL) gives pupils opportunities to find out about and discuss, in a safe environment, issues that are relevant to their lives.

LfL at Culford aims to promote the physical, social, healthy and mental well-being by:

- enabling pupils to consider attitudes and values
- enhancing pupils' self-esteem and self-confidence
- building confidence and awareness of personal safety in today's society
- developing personal, emotional, social and communicative skills
- ensuring pupils become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background
- encouraging pupils to understand the basic British values and the importance of respect so that they leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain
- allowing pupils to examine the physical and emotional implications of sexual behaviour and to appreciate the need for all genders to behave responsibly in sexual matters
- enabling all pupils to feel that the content is relevant to them and their developing sexuality. Sexual orientation and gender identity should be explored at a timely point and in a clear, sensitive and respectful manner
- ensuring that pupils have a clear understanding of sexual and reproductive biology, including knowledge of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases
- making pupils aware of the impact of media on their own body image, self-esteem and expectations of relationships
- giving pupils accurate and relevant guidance on how to get further support if needed

LfL is part of the wider school ethos of promoting self-respect for others. This ethos is inherent throughout the school in peer mentoring and the buddy system for new pupils. It also encourages pupils to develop skills vital for positions of responsibility, service and leadership. Pupils are expected to be treated, and to treat each other, in a way that reinforces the messages conveyed in the LfL curriculum. The School is a member of the PSHE Association.

From Fourth Form to Upper Fifth, Learning for Life is taught by tutors in our Wednesday Period 1 Tutor Time slot and through standalone sessions as part of the Pastoral Friday programme on Friday afternoons.

Parental Right to Withdraw

The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, makes Relationships and Sex Education compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education.

Parents are informed annually that RSE is delivered through the Learning for Life curriculum, and about the curriculum content for that year, by the Head of Learning for Life.

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of the sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. This does not include those parts which are in the wider statutory curriculum (i.e. in the Science curriculum). When such a request is made, we aim to ensure that the Head of Department and Assistant Head (Pastoral) discuss the request with parents and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the curriculum's nature and purpose.

Parents cannot withdraw children from the relationships or health aspects of the curriculum.