

Life Skills and Worldviews FAQ's

We are very proud that Patcham High's Life Skills programme is unique to us. Encompassing a variety of topics, we aim to equip students with the transferable skills needed whilst they are still at school and which prepare them for their future as adults. We believe this subject provides all our students with the opportunity to make decisions which help them become safe, respectful, accepting, well-informed, critical and active members of society.

However, we also understand that as it is unique to us, as parents you often have questions about our subject area which may not have for other departments in the school. Please use this FAQ page to answer some of those questions.

What is Life Skills?

An umbrella term we use at Patcham High School to encompass Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship, and in KS4 it also covers Philosophy and Ethics.

What is Worldviews?

Worldviews is RS and is only taught to years 7 and 8.

Who studies Life Skills?

- Life Skills is a compulsory subject for all year groups.

How often do pupils study Life Skills and Worldviews?

- Year 7 and 8 – Life Skills for two carousel rotations a year (approx. 28 lessons) and one hour a fortnight of Worldviews
- Year 9-11 – Life Skills for one a hour a week

Who is subject leader?

Hannah Kinchin-Frost who can be contacted via email: hkinchin-frost@patchamhigh.org.uk

What if I want to withdraw my child from RS?

- Parents are legally allowed to withdraw their child from RS for religious reasons however we believe that learning about different faiths, cultures and viewpoints is fundamental to creating a cohesive and accepting community here at PHS and our society as a whole.
- Any requests to withdraw from RS must be made in writing to the Headteacher.

What if I want to withdraw my child from other topics?

- Life Skills deals with sensitive issues and we understand that there may be some issues which parents feel might be too upsetting for their child due to particular personal circumstances such as bereavement.
- In line with the new PSHE guidance, parents are also legally able to withdraw their child from Sex Education but not Relationships Education.
- The curriculum map is available on the school website so parents/ carers can see what their child will be learning about
- Any requests to withdraw from Sex Education must be made in writing to the Headteacher.

What will they learn in Life Skills?

- Please see the curriculum maps available on the website

Are they assessed in Life Skills and Worldviews?

- Yes. The school views Life Skills and Worldviews as academic subjects and pupils are expected to complete all work, homework and assessments to high standards.
- Pupil progress will be communicated to parents via reports and parent's evenings.

In regards to the new statutory guidance on Relationships and Sex Education, please see the DfE's answers to frequent questions on this topic:

Q: Will my child's school have to consult with me before teaching these subjects?

A: Schools will be required to consult with parents when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships Education and RSE, which will inform schools' decisions on when and how certain content is covered. Effective consultation gives the space and time for parents to input, ask questions, share concerns and for the school to decide the way forward. Schools will listen to parent's views, and then make a reasonable decision as to how they wish to proceed. What is taught, and how, is ultimately a decision for the school and consultation does not provide a parental veto on curriculum content.

A school's policies for these subjects must be published online, and must be available to any individual free of charge. Schools should also ensure that, when they consult parents, they provide examples of the resources they plan to use, for example the books they will use in lessons. **Patcham High's RSE policy is available online and we will be consulting parents in the academic year 2019-20.**

Q: Do I have a right to withdraw my child from Relationships and Sex Education?

A: Parents will have a right to withdraw their child from sex education delivered as part of RSE in secondary schools which, unless there are exceptional circumstances, should be granted up to three terms before their child turns 16. At this point, if the child themselves wishes to receive sex education rather than be withdrawn, the school should 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 Relationships Education at primary or secondary as we believe the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught. **Please see above for how to exercise this right at Patcham High.**

Q: Has the government listened to the views of my community in introducing these subjects?

A: A thorough engagement process, involving a public call for evidence and discussions with over 90 organisations, as well as the public consultation on the draft regulations and guidance, has informed the key decisions on these subjects. The consultation received over 11,000 responses from teachers, schools, expert organisations, young people and parents – these responses have helped finalise the statutory guidance as well as the regulations that have been laid in Parliament.

Q: Will these subjects promote LGBT relationships?

A: No, these subjects don't 'promote' anything, they educate.

Pupils should be taught about the society in which they are growing up. These subjects are designed to foster respect for others and for difference, and educate pupils about healthy relationships. RSE should meet the needs of all pupils, whatever their developing sexuality or identity – this should include age-appropriate teaching about different types of relationships in the context of the law.

Pupils should receive teaching on LGBT relationships during their school years - we expect secondary schools to include LGBT content. Primary schools are enabled and encouraged to cover LGBT content if they consider it age appropriate to do so, but there is no specific requirement for this. This would be delivered, for example, through teaching about different types of family, including those with same sex parents. **We deliver LGBT+ identity lessons in year 7 and 10 specifically as well also including LGBT+ relationships in year 8, 9 and 11.**

Q: Will teachers receive training before delivering these subjects?

A: The department is committed to supporting schools to deliver these subjects to a high standard. We know that training is a priority for teachers and we will be consulting with teachers, trade unions and other key stakeholders over the coming months on how we structure the training.

In addition, we are encouraging schools to act as early adopters for this curriculum and to start teaching the subjects from September 2019. To help early adopter schools, we will provide further advice on how they can improve their practice. Lessons learned from the early adopters and best practice from schools will be shared with all schools from September 2020. **Patcham High School is an Early Adopter school and has shared good practice.**