



RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

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BIBLICAL FOUNDATION OF LOVE

From The Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:

"What is written in the Law?" Jesus replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus said. "Do this and you will live."

INTRODUCTION

We teach our Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) from a biblical perspective, laying the foundations for healthy relationships from the early years, and work hard to develop character and attitudes in our young people which will honour God in all relationships they may have. We believe that before God, the main responsibility for the education of children, including sex and relationship education, is that of the child's parents, and we seek to actively support this through our teaching in the school.

THE SCHOOL'S ROLE

The River School exists to serve parents in the education of their children and therefore to support them in their sex and relationship teaching from a biblical perspective. The school's role therefore is one of supporting and enabling the parents to fulfil their responsibility, alongside the teaching required by law. From May 2021, RSE becomes statutory in all secondary schools in England and relationships education becomes statutory in all primary schools in England, including independent schools. Parents are welcome to discuss the content of this teaching with the relevant teachers, as with all other subjects in the curriculum.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- For pupils to grow in a relationship with God
- For pupils to develop godly attitudes and actions in the realm of all conduct in relationships
- For pupils to develop in our school virtues of sacrificial love and biblical wisdom in the realm of all conduct in relationships
- For pupils to be well prepared for adult life, marriage and family planning

- For pupils to be tolerant, respectful and loving for all people regardless of differences
- For pupils to be well informed so as to be able to make good choices about healthy relationships
- For pupils to understand the importance of forgiveness, for good and stable relationships and good mental and spiritual health.

DEFINITIONS

Relationship Education includes any aspect of our teaching which deals with the interaction between the individual and others. It is very broad in its scope and is integrated into many subjects, considered ad hoc, as well as being explicitly taught. It is an important focus in primary school. Sex Education is only compulsory in secondary schools. It is used here to describe education about puberty, human sexual anatomy, sexual reproduction, sexual intercourse, sexual health, contraception and other aspects of human sexual behaviour. This occurs in detail in secondary school, although aspects of sexual anatomy and differences between the sexes are covered in Years 5 and 6.

CURRICULUM AND TEACHING

RSE is taught in an integrated way throughout the school. Teachers deliver age appropriate teaching in line with the maturity of the pupils. The RSE curriculum map, our programme of delivery, demonstrates where sex education issues arise in the teaching. Both the curriculum map and the policy should be reviewed every year. Should issues arise related to Relationship and Sex education teaching, which are not specifically mentioned in the curriculum, our teachers take the opportunity to address these with pupils; for example, in the context of a specific relational breakdown between pupils and how to forgive and rebuild broken relationships. The issues concerned with Relationship and Sex Education are dealt with through PSHE, Assemblies/Devotions, ICT lessons (in respect of on-line safety), Religious Studies and in Science, although may occur at any point. We teach children that all forms of unkindness or bullying are unacceptable, especially related to sex or sexual orientation.

Parents have the right to request removal of their child from sex education, but not from relationships education lessons. Relationships education lessons include teaching on the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and adults.

Pupils who are in the three terms before their sixteenth birthday are entitled to opt into these lessons regardless of parental consent being withheld in the past, and the school will make arrangements for this education to be provided.

RELATIONSHIPS IN SCHOOL BETWEEN PUPILS

The school is primarily a learning community, and the school actively encourages pupils to build a wide range of friendships across gender and age which promote learning and community. This ensures the Christian family atmosphere is promoted across the school. Our RSE is woven through the entire curriculum naturally: in the playground in the way that we support pupils in handling disputes and relationship issues, in team-building games and in developing good, open, honest communication skills. Especially in the secondary school, public displays of exclusive romantic relationships (kissing, hugging, hand-holding, pairing off) are actively discouraged, and will be addressed if seen by the teachers, and parents will be informed. We believe such exclusive relationships are counter-productive to the learning community we seek to foster. Our anti-bullying policy outlines the procedures for how we deal with breakdowns in relationships or negative behaviours.

REVIEW

We assess and modify our RSE curriculum each year to ensure we are taking full advantage of new resources and professional expertise in our local community. An RSE survey amongst the school community, and open honest communication links with parents and pupils, help us to tackle subjects and issues as they arise.

See Appendix I for the Integration Map

APPENDIX I

Relationship and Sex Education Integration Map (From Y1 - Year 11)

RSE INTEGRATION MAP

PRIMARY			
	Year 1/2	Year 3/4	Year 5/6
RSE in PSHE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right and wrong in friendships • Responsibilities • Relationships cooperation • Feelings • Good neighbours • Choices and consequences • Keeping safe • Celebrating and recognising differences • Class rules for good citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize and manage emotions • Risky or negative relationships • Families and citizens • Duties and responsibilities • Dealing with arguments and disagreements • Importance of forgiveness • Equality and diversity in family relationships • Understanding finance and relationships 	<p style="text-align: center;">As in Years 3&4 including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to sex and personal relationships • Personal hygiene • Managing emotions • Saying 'No' • Dealing with stress • Knowing right from wrong
RSE in Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct names for body parts • Body parts that are private • What a baby needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe touch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reproduction and life cycles of humans • Inheritance • Puberty
RSE in ICT/E-Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowing what to do if they find something inappropriate online • Understanding the need to keep passwords private • Personal information and developing awareness of why it is special • What action to take if a child feels they might be in danger • Understanding that not everything on the Internet is true • Awareness and ability to use rules for keeping safe on the Internet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing strategies for staying safe when carrying out online searches • Knowing how to deal with unpleasant forms of electronic communication • Understanding SMART rules • Children understand and abide by the School Internet and Acceptable Use Policy and are aware of the implications of not following the rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strategies to ignore or cancel unsolicited advertising (pop-ups, banners etc.) • Children understand the potential risks of providing personal information in an increasing range of online technologies • Staying safe on social media • Know that malicious adults can use the Internet and attempts to make contact with children and know how to report abuse

SENIORS					
	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
RSE in PSHE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect & tolerance • Types of relationships • Romance • Good citizenship • Law and order • Managing conflict • Choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect & tolerance • Sexuality & orientation • Good citizenship • Impact of drug and alcohol abuse • Keeping safe (FGM, forced marriage, domestic violence) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect and tolerance • Dating & waiting • Living in right relationships • Sex and self – control • Sex & the Law • Gender • Self-image • Grooming • Control • Eating disorders • Self-harm • Keeping safe from abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danger and attraction of pornography • Respect and tolerance and the British rule related to relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage • Sexual intimacy • Sexual health Consent
RSE in Science	Understanding reproduction Puberty Menstrual cycle Pregnancy Birth	Sexual determination & genetics	Hormones STIs		Hormones in the menstrual cycle Infertility and treatment Hormonal control and contraceptives Sexual determination and genetics Inherited disorders Genetic engineering Cloning STIs
RSE in ICT/E-Safety	Termly E- Safety & RSE				
RSE in RE lessons / Devotions	Regular devotions to cover RSE issues as an integral part of Christian worldview understanding including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships with one another • Forgiveness • Acceptance • Loving • Love, Justice & Quality 				<u>Human Relationships</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of sexual relationship • Types of commitment • Contraception & ethics • Sex education & marriage

		<p><u>Social justice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protected characteristic of homosexuality (LGBTQ+) & gender (including transgender & non- binary)
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