



**BROADWATER**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
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# Relationship and Sex Education Policy 2021-2024

## **Turn your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding (Proverbs 2:2)**

Broadwater is a Christian School. We will enable children to become wise, confident, successful learners with the motivation, skills and responsibility to make a positive difference in God's world. Our vision is underpinned by the values we live by.

*The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Galatians 5:22*

It is this fruit that, in partnership with parents, we will instil in the children of our school.

# Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

## **General Statement**

The school's overall approach to specific areas of sexuality and sex education is rooted in an evangelical interpretation of Biblical Scripture (see Appendix 1) and is part of the Christian ethos of the school. Whilst positions on the following issues are stated in line with Biblical teaching, sensitivity and dignity will be shown to any individual either coping with problems or enquiring about any of these areas.

In devising this policy, the school consulted with staff and parents and has referred to the following documents:

- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers 2019.
- Changes to the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education and PSHE: A call for evidence. Church of England Office Response. February 2018.
- Valuing All God's Children. Guidance for Church of England schools on challenging homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. Autumn 2017.

## **1. Legal Information**

The new curriculum for teaching Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) will become mandatory from September 2020. Schools are encouraged to adopt the new curriculum early from September 2019. (see the following link):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

The salient points are still that:

- The Governors of the school are responsible for deciding their own relationships and sex education policy.
- Sex Education must be provided in such a way to encourage children to have regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or any part of the sex education provided, unless that sex education forms part of the National Curriculum.

## **2. Role of Parents and the right to withdraw children from sex education**

RSE (Relationship and Sex Education) is seen as a partnership between parents and the school. Parents will always be informed by letter when their child will be given RSE and will be invited to the biannual showing of the resources to parents. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE unless that sex education forms part of the National Curriculum.

## **The Aims and Purpose of Relationship and Sex Education**

To prepare pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up and give an elementary understanding of human reproduction.

The forward to the statutory guidance states the following: Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This

presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

Broadwater staff and Governors recognise the importance of RSE for a number of reasons. Particularly important is the opportunity to teach sex education within a Christian framework.

- i) As the aims of the school recognise, relationships and sex education are important as a preparation for adult life and so the inclusion of RSE is seen as a key element in that preparation.
- ii) Within school there is a vital opportunity to present information about human sexuality within a clearly agreed Biblical and moral framework.

At Broadwater, the Parish Clergy and Governors expect teaching to encourage the children to understand that sexuality is a gift from God to enable people to show love and commitment to one another. Within a Christian context - this means sexual relationships within marriage.

- iii) RSE can provide an invaluable opportunity to emphasise the Christian principle of the importance of family life to all relationships in our society.
- iv) RSE in school will provide a useful support to parents and children who find it difficult to communicate about sexual matters.
- v) It will avoid sex becoming a taboo subject where discussion is confined to the playground where many misunderstandings and anxieties can arise. Teachers will be able to respond honestly and sensitively to children's enquiries.
- vi) The climate in which RSE is addressed is recognised as being a sensitive area of the curriculum. The children need to feel secure and safe to ask questions and the teachers to answer them. Whilst recognising that each group's dynamics are different the atmosphere in the classroom needs to reflect mutual respect. Whole class and small group discussions may be used and single gender and mixed gender groupings organised to enable better discussions. Children may be asked to write questions they would like answered anonymously and put them in a question box. Pupils' questions will be answered sensitively and there may be occasions when s/he is referred back to the parent.
- vii) Various people can support the school in RSE. These people may include parents, the school nurse, other health professionals and Church leaders. The visitors will always be informed about the school's position and the purpose of their input will be fully explained.

### **3. Child Protection**

The school is not in a position to offer pupils unconditional confidentiality. If a child discloses sexual abuse the teacher will refer to the school's Child Protection Procedures.

### **4. Training of Staff**

RSE will be reviewed by the Leadership and Management. Courses will be identified for appropriate staff to attend and information passed on to other staff.

### **5. The Content of the Relationship and Sex Education Programme**

The same information is covered several times throughout the school, although it is approached in different ways. This is because the issues become more pertinent to individuals at different times.

The RSE programme provided, matches the maturity of the pupils. It is geared to the needs of the class or group as a whole and not determined by the pace or knowledge of any individual pupil. Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education must be accessible for all pupils. This is particularly important when planning teaching for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. High quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will be the starting point to ensure accessibility.

## **6. Outline of Content of RSE**

The Science National Curriculum addresses the biological aspects of sex education in KS2. The content of RSE can be broadly classified as developing:

- Knowledge and understanding of the biological, emotional, social and legal aspects of sexuality.
- Personal and social skills (which will be considered in the RHE Policy).
- Appropriate attitudes and values.
- In every year pupils will consider their personal safety with regard to saying no to physical contact they do not like.

## **7. Organisation and Resources**

An overview of the areas covered through the school are outlined in the curriculum area of the school website. This may be delivered either discreetly or through cross-curricular links such as RHE, R.E. or Science. The curriculum content will be adapted to the needs of the children being taught. Links with other areas of the curriculum are made as appropriate.

## **8. Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Policy will be subject to review (see policy date). This Policy has been reviewed 1 year after the statutory date of implementation (2020).