





TOWNSEND
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

Last reviewed	September 2023	Next review	September 2025
Review period	Annually	Reviewed by	LGB
Headteacher Signature: Anthony Flack		Chair of Governors Signature: Helen Quenet	

The school's RSE policy and procedures have been adopted by the Governing Body and will be reviewed regularly.

"To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, pupils need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy." (DFE, 2019)

1. Introduction

At Townsend, our vision 'Achievement For All, Respect For All' is underpinned by the concept of 'Love your neighbour' from the story of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37. We value everyone, and show love and respect for ourselves and others, setting high standards and supporting each other so that we can all flourish. The concept of 'love your neighbour' is taught in three strands:

1. Love your neighbour – treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself
2. Love yourself – self-care is important, look after yourself physically, mentally and spiritually
3. Love the journey – whether academic or personal, Townsend supports everyone's journeys to enable you to flourish individually and collectively

At Townsend Church of England School through the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) we aim to develop students' understanding of the importance of healthy, respectful and nurturing relationships in all different aspects of life and of all kinds. This includes home, school, work and within the community.

We want students to be able to make well-informed decisions about the choices they make in their lives. Through RSE we aim to improve students' self-confidence, self-esteem and emotional well-being in a safe and supportive environment. We encourage pupils to develop their personal attributes of honesty, courage, trustworthiness, kindness, humility and integrity as well as understand the importance of self-worth and self-respect.

We teach and develop students' knowledge about the law and facts to do with sex, sexuality, sexual health and gender-identity and other protected characteristics and we will support pupil's knowledge and understanding of safe and healthy intimate relationships at the appropriate time.

The education we give students through RSE underpins our values of Respect for All, Achievement for All as well as 'Love Thy Neighbour'. It works with our anti-bullying policy, as well as our statement of pastoral intent, to ensure students are well supported in their own life choices.

2. Principles

Our mission statement is '**Achievement for All, Respect for All**'

At Townsend Church of England School we believe that every person is equally important and that no no-one has the right to harass, insult or cause offence to any other person for any reason.

*We particularly reject the way that some people abuse others,
because they are richer or poorer, older or younger,
because they are small or tall, thin or fat,
because of the colour of their skin,
because they are male or because they are female,
because they are a teacher or pupil,
because of their religion,
because of disability or personal problems,
because of gender or sexual orientation,
because of their looks or what they wear,*

*because of their likes or dislikes,
because they are popular or unpopular,
because of their ability or lack of ability,
because of their nationality or accent.*

We are all individuals with differences, but we are all members of Townsend Church of England School and can learn from each other.

This Respect for All statement forms the foundation of how we treat each other and guides us in the way we respond to people's differences. We say it aloud and together during our Cathedral Dedication Service at the start of each year and it is revisited on many occasions through different curriculum areas, assemblies and different whole school events. It is displayed prominently in the school entrance and in every classroom.

Through the teaching of RSE, we embed this mission statement and we remind students of its importance when teaching elements of the RSE curriculum.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

It is a statutory requirement to teach RSE to our pupils. The Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team will be responsible for the implementation of the RSE policy. All staff have a shared responsibility to ensure students are supported in their knowledge of the RSE curriculum and to embed the whole-school approach to supporting students to be safe, happy and prepared for life beyond school. As staff, we want students to have the knowledge to safeguard themselves, and the RSE curriculum supports this by giving students the necessary guidance and knowledge they need. The School Leadership group will support staff through a Line Management system and relevant training on delivering RSE where necessary.

Students and parents are consulted in the construction of the RSE policy and student voice is collected in order to ensure the needs of the students are met at age appropriate times. The structure of the RSE curriculum is flexible and can change dependent on the needs of groups of students, and we may teach different topics at different times. We believe that RSE at school should be complementary to the education given at home.

Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE in exceptional circumstances up to and until three terms before the child turns 16. Any request would be discussed with the Senior Leadership Team and the parents, and as appropriate the pupil before a decision is made. Parents/carers can ask to view and discuss the content of resources used to teach the RSE programme.

The Governing Body will take such steps as are reasonably practical to ensure that any provision is in accordance with current guidelines laid down by the Government. They will also pay regard to representations made to them by anyone connected with the community served by Townsend Church of England School. In addition, they will in consultation with the Headteacher, consider advice received from the Health Authorities, and or religious or ethnic minority groups.

4. RSE curriculum

RSE is delivered in fortnightly lessons as part of our curriculum offer in years 7-9. An hour lesson per fortnight where students are taught in form groups or teaching groups. Lessons are taught by a group of teachers who deliver the curriculum and are led by or overseen by an Assistant Headteacher.

Years 10-13 cover the RSE curriculum in tutor times and form tutors are responsible for the delivery of the curriculum, overseen by Directors of Learning. This is delivered during registration time as well as through additional enrichment opportunities throughout the year.

The programme for each year group is planned according to the pupil's age group and the needs of the particular

pupils. The programme is flexible and allows us to incorporate contextual issues that may be relevant to those pupils at a specific time. We also take into consideration student voice when planning the curriculum.

Each year group has an enrichment afternoon (3 hours) dedicated to RSE throughout the year and this will involve input from external speakers on age appropriate topics that students need. We also dedicate other time to RSE where necessary using external speakers when appropriate.

All pupils will cover the following topics at an age appropriate level each year:

- Healthy and respectful relationships
- Boundaries and consent
- Stereotyping, prejudice and equality
- Body confidence and self-esteem
- How to recognise an abusive relationship, including coercive and controlling behaviour
- The concepts of, and laws relating to - sexual consent, sexual exploitation, abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape, domestic abuse, so called 'honour'-based violence such as forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and how to access support.
- What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable.

Aspects of the RSE curriculum are also taught as an integral part of Townsend Church of England School's broad and balanced curriculum provision in Science, Religious Education, Food Technology, Physical Education and Computer Science and is mapped across the year groups.

We will work with external agencies in order to enhance the delivery of topics within the RSE curriculum, bringing in specialist knowledge and different ways of engaging with young people.

5. Confidentiality

Effective RSE should enable young people to talk to a trusted adult. There may be cases when a teacher learns from a under 16-year-old that they are having, or contemplating having, sexual intercourse. In these circumstances, we make every reasonable effort to ensure that:

- Wherever possible, the young person is persuaded to talk to their parent or carer;
- Any potential or actual child protection or safeguarding issues are addressed (see Child Protection Policy)

Where the teacher who receives the information believes there is a child protection issue to be addressed, they should refer the case to a designated teacher for child protection (DSP). The teacher should also make clear to the pupil that they cannot guarantee confidentiality.

If the teacher is in any doubt, they must seek immediate advice from the designated teacher for child protection.

6. Further advice on RSE

The following guidance is produced by the Government, outlining the school's statutory responsibilities in relation to RSE

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

The Government have also produced a RSE guide for parents/carers

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

The following websites are useful starting points for more information on the RSE guidance, curriculum and have specialist areas to support parents/carers when tackling RSE topics at home:

<https://pshe-association.org.uk/>

<https://www.sexwise.org.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<https://www.rsehub.org.uk>

7. Evaluation and Review of RSE at Townsend Church of England School

Townsend Church of England School's RSE policy will be reviewed and evaluated regularly, along with stakeholders. It will be presented to the Governors for a final endorsement.

The most recent DFE guidance 'Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education' July 2019 has been used to support the updating of this policy, alongside 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'.

This policy works in along with other related policies:

- Child Protection Policy
- Diversity Policy
- Wellbeing policy
- Equality Policy
- Behaviour Policy