

**RSE and RE-Relationships Education Policy**  
Land of Learning Nursery and Primary School



**Land of Learning Nursery and Primary School**  
“Nurturing the seeds of knowledge”

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**Date:** March 2021

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**Last reviewed on:**

01/03/21

**Next review due by:**

01/03/22

# RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

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# RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

## Land of Learning Values, Vision and Mission Statement:

### **Values: We are always striving to be good F-R-I-E-N-D**

**Faith-** Our beliefs guide everything we do. We live by Islamic Principles and follow the Quran and Sunnah. We use the Quran as our guide and our Prophet and His Companions are our role models. All aspects of the school are underpinned by a strong religious identity.

**Resilience-** At Land of Learning we always try our best and persevere in learning to the best of our abilities. We have a can do attitude and we work hard in everything we do. We all have strengths and together we strive for success.

**Integrity-** At Land of Learning we are always fair, honest and non-judgemental in our behaviour. All children deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. We are clear about expectations and ensure that we help each other to always achieve with excellence.

**Empowerment-** We continuously challenge each other to work to achieve our full potential. We are prepared, organised and professional at all times. We set clear expectations and goals and know exactly how to achieve them. We are always open to new ideas and constantly strive to improve.

**Nurture-** We provide an environment that is rich and stimulating. We believe that children learn best when the environment is safe, holistic and happy. The emotional well-being of all at school is paramount.

**Diversity-** We are all unique and special. Our differences enrich our school and prepare us for a diverse society. We understand that as individuals we are entitled to be treated with respect and tolerance.

### **Vision:**

To nurture holistic life-long learning and service rooted in classical knowledge within a safe stimulating high quality environment.

### **Mission**

At Land of Learning we aim to develop the whole child with Islam as the main focus of their lives. We provide a rich rewarding environment within which pupils may benefit from a cross-curricular approach to Islamic education. We give opportunities for each pupil to develop, and reach their full potential through the teachings and practice of Islam. The school seeks to free pupils from all prejudice and inspire in them the universal values of equality and fairness. Through inspirational teaching and learning experiences, we aim to enrich and maximise all aspects of development- academic, spiritual, social, creative, physical, personal, moral, and emotional. We do this through a state of the art building and high quality resources. We have high expectations of staff, pupils and parents and strive for excellence in all we do.

## INTRODUCTION

In this policy the governors and teachers of Land of Learning, in partnership with pupils and their parents, set out our intentions about relationships and sex education (RSE). We set out our rationale for and approach to relationships and sex education in the school.

In forming this policy, we have taken into consideration parents' concerns and feedback which were shared with us in a questionnaire and a virtual meeting. Our policy has been thoroughly reviewed by the governing body and senior leaders in school to ensure it is line with our Islamic ethos and values. The school governors have also been consulted and a link governor has been nominated who will be monitoring and evaluating the implementation of this policy. The curriculum content has been reviewed by our staff to ensure they have a broad and deep understanding of the expectations of RSE.

### **Implementation and Review of Policy**

Implementation of the policy will take place after consultation with the governors in the Spring Term 2021. This policy will be reviewed every year by the Head teacher, RSE Co-ordinator, the Governing Body and staff. The next review date is 01/03/2022

### **Dissemination**

The draft policy will be given to all members of the Governing Body, and all teaching and non-teaching members of staff. Copies of the document will be available to all parents through the school's website and a copy is available in the school office. Details of the content of the RSE curriculum will also be published on the school's web site.

## **DEFINING RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION**

The DfE guidance states that, "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"<sup>1</sup>. This means that they should know what it means to be fully human, to be equipped to manage relationships so that they are healthy and successful and to be enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. The teaching of RSE will aid the development of their knowledge and understanding of themselves as human beings.

We will focus on, "teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults."<sup>2</sup> This includes the topics of families and of the people who care for me, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe.

## **RATIONALE**

Today, I have perfected your religion for you, and have completed My blessing upon you, and chosen Islam as Dīn (religion and a way of life) for you

Al-Quran 5:3

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<sup>1</sup> Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, Head Teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers Page 4

<sup>2</sup> Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, Head Teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers Page 19

Islam is a complete way of life for Muslims. Its guidance is comprehensive and includes the personal, social, moral, and spiritual aspects of our lives. Our involvement in educating our children about relationships and sex education is precisely because of this; we as Muslims must know how to have healthy, loving, and enriching relationships and know the role of sex in our lives.

Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example for whoever has hope in Allah and the Last Day and remembers Allah often.

Al-Quran 33:21

And verily, you (O Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon you) are on an exalted standard of character.

Al-Quran 68:4

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) was the best of all in character and he presented to us a practical example of how to conduct ourselves and live our lives. RSE at our school is centred on the example set by the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, whilst enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

Our RSE teaching will be in accordance with Islamic principles and values. It will emphasise the central importance of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from. It will also prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

## VALUES AND VIRTUES

Our programme enshrines Islamic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life. It also promotes those virtues which are essential in fulfilling the rights of others (*Huqqul Ibaad*) with a proper respect for their dignity and the dignity of the human body. The following virtues will be explicitly explored and promoted: faithfulness, chastity, integrity, prudence, mercy, and compassion.

## AIMS OF RSE

Our Mission Statement commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural, emotional) and we believe that RSE is an integral part of this education. Furthermore, our school aims state that we will endeavour to raise pupils' self-esteem, help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes. It is in this context that we commit ourselves:

In partnership with parents, to provide children and young people with a positive and prudent relationships education which is compatible with their physical, cognitive, psychological, and spiritual maturity, and rooted in the Islamic vision of education.

## Objectives

Our Islamic values underpin our ethos, every child is valued and encouraged to achieve their full potential. Every member of our school community is encouraged to respect and value each other. Wherever possible we make close links between our values, worship and PSHE curriculum.

To develop in pupils, the following **attitudes and virtues**:

- respect for the dignity of every human being – in their own person and in the person of others;
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures;

- responsibility for their own actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life;
- fidelity in relationships.

To develop in pupils, the following **personal and social skills**:

- making sound judgements and good choices which have integrity, and which are respectful of each individual's personal commitments;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse, and bullying;
- managing emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, managing these with confidence, sensitivity, and dignity;
- managing conflict positively and recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy, and compassion;
- learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures, recognising the influence and impact of the media, internet, and peer groups, and thus developing the ability to assess pressures and respond appropriately;
- being patient, delaying gratification and learning to recognise the appropriate stages in the development of relationships, and how to love chastely;
- assessing risks and managing behaviours in order to minimise the risk to health and personal integrity.

To **know and understand**:

- Islamic teaching on relationships;
- Islamic teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;

## INCLUSION AND DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING

We will ensure RSE is sensitive to the needs of individual pupils in respect to their different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances and is taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help

## EQUALITIES OBLIGATIONS

The Governing Body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, religion, nationality, ethnic or national origin, pregnancy, maternity, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation or whether they are looked-after children.

## BROAD CONTENT OF RSE

Three aspects of RSE - attitudes and values, knowledge and understanding, and personal and social skills will be provided in three inter-related ways: the whole school / ethos dimension; a cross-curricular dimension and a specific relationships curriculum. Sex education will not be covered.

See attached 'RSE Curriculum Overview'

## DELIVERY

Teaching strategies will include:

- establishing ground rules
- distancing techniques
- discussion
- project learning
- reflection
- experiential aspects
- brainstorming
- film & video
- group work
- role-play
- trigger drawings
- values clarification

**We will use formative assessments to track children's progress and understanding of the RSE curriculum.**

## PARENTS AND CARERS

We recognise that we will be able to deliver successful outcomes for our children when collaboration is strong, particularly between pupils, parents, and the school. We as a school, will therefore support parents and carers by providing material to be shared with their children at home. We will deliver workshops to help parents/carers to find out more. Additionally, parents/carers will be informed by letter when the more sensitive aspects of RSE will be covered, to allay concern and to enable them to be prepared to talk to and answer questions from children about their learning.

Parents will be consulted before this policy is ratified by the governors. They will be consulted at every stage of the development of the RSE programme, as well as during the process of monitoring, review, and evaluation. They will be able to view the resources used by the school in the RSE programme. Our aim is that, at the end of the consultation process, every parent and carer will have full confidence in the school's RSE programme to meet their child's needs.

Parents continue to have **the right to withdraw** their children from Sex Education except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders.

However, Land of Learning will **NOT** be providing sex education. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help their children with their learning.

We believe that the controlled environment of the classroom is the safest place for this curriculum to be followed. Please refer to the DfE guidance provided for further details on the right to be excused from sex education (commonly referred to as, 'the right to withdraw').

## **BALANCED CURRICULUM**

Whilst promoting Islamic values and virtues, and teaching in accordance with Islamic principles, we will ensure that pupils are offered a balanced programme by providing an RSE curriculum that offers a range of viewpoints on issues. Pupils will receive clear scientific information and they will cover aspects of the law pertaining to RSE. Knowing about facts and enabling young people to explore differing viewpoints is not the same as promoting behaviour and is not incompatible with our school's promotion of Islamic values and principles. We will ensure that pupils have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.

## **RESPONSIBILITY FOR TEACHING THE PROGRAMME**

Responsibility for the teaching of relationships and sex education programme lies with all staff. The content will be checked in advance by the Head, pastoral and RE Leads

However, all staff will contribute to the development of pupils' personal and social skills and will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspect of the RSE programme. They will be role models for pupils demonstrating good, healthy, wholesome relationships between each other, other adults and pupils.

### **External Visitors**

Our school will often call upon help and guidance from outside agencies and health specialists to deliver aspects of RSE. Such visits will always compliment the current programme and never substitute or replace teacher led sessions. All external visitors will be fully vetted and clearly informed about their role and responsibility whilst they are in school delivering a session. All visitors will have to adhere to our code of practice developed in line with CES guidance 'Checklist for External Speakers to Schools'<sup>3</sup>.

Health professionals will follow the school's policies using negotiated ground rules and distancing techniques as other teachers would. They will ensure that all teaching is rooted in Islamic principles and practice.

## **OTHER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING RSE**

### **Governors**

- draw up the RSE policy, in consultation with parents and teachers;
- ensure that the policy is available to parents;
- ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies, e.g. SEN, the ethos of the school and our Islamic beliefs;
- ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children;
- establish a link governor to share in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, including resources used;
- ensure that the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum science topics and the setting of RSE within PSHE.

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<sup>3</sup> CES Checklist for External Speakers to Schools, 2016

## **Head teacher**

The Head teacher takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, the Local Education Authority, and appropriate agencies.

## **PSHE/RSE Co-Ordinator**

The co-ordinator with the Head teacher has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RSE and the provision of in-service training. *(They may be supported by the curriculum deputy and the member of staff with responsibility for child protection).*

## **All Staff**

RSE is a whole school issue. All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral, and spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach RSE in accordance with the Islamic ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RSE. All staff have been included in the development of this policy and all staff should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them.

## **RELATIONSHIPS TO OTHER POLICIES AND CURRICULUM SUBJECTS**

This RSE policy is to be delivered as part of the PSHE framework. It includes guidelines about pupil safety and is compatible with the school's other policy documents (e.g. Anti-Bullying Policy, Safeguarding Policy etc).

Pupils with additional needs will receive appropriately differentiated support to enable them to achieve desired outcomes. Teaching methods will be adapted to meet the varying needs of all of pupils.

## **CONTROVERSIAL AND SENSITIVE QUESTIONS**

The governors want to promote a healthy, positive atmosphere in which RSE can take place. They want to ensure that pupils can ask questions freely, be confident that their questions will be answered and be sure that they will be free from bullying or harassment from other children and young people.

There may be sensitive or controversial issues raised by pupils when discussing certain topics in RSE. These may be due to their own experiences or because of the values that they hold. The governors believe that children are best educated and protected from harm and exploitation when given the opportunities to discuss such issues openly within the context of the RSE programme. The use of ground rules, negotiated between teachers and pupils, will help to create a supportive climate for this discussion.

## **SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE AT RISK**

Children will need to feel safe and secure in the environment in which RSE takes place. Effective RSE will provide opportunities for discussion of what is and is not appropriate in relationships. Such discussion may well lead to disclosure of a safeguarding issue. Teachers will need to be aware of the needs of their pupils and not let any fears and worries go unnoticed. Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is a victim of or is at risk of abuse, they are required to follow the school's Safeguarding Policy and immediately inform the designated senior member of staff responsible.

## CONFIDENTIALITY AND ADVICE

All governors, all teachers, all support staff, all parents, and all pupils must be made aware of this policy, particularly as it relates to issues of advice and confidentiality.

All lessons, especially those in the RSE programme, will have the best interests of pupils at heart, enabling them to grow in knowledge and understanding of relationships, developing appropriate personal and social skills and becoming appreciative of the values and attitudes which underpin the Islamic understanding of what it means to be fully human.

Pupils will be encouraged to talk to their parents/carers about the issues which are discussed in the RSE programme. Teachers will always help pupils facing personal difficulties, in line with the school's Pastoral Care Policy. Teachers should explain to pupils that they cannot offer unconditional confidentiality.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The RSE Co-ordinator will monitor the provision of the various dimensions of the programme by examining plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils work at regular intervals. The programme will be evaluated biannually by means of questionnaires / response sheets / needs assessment given to pupils, and/or by discussion with pupils, staff and parents. The results of the evaluation will be reported to these groups of interested parties and their suggestions sought for improvements. Governors will consider all such evaluations and suggestions before amending the policy. Governors remain ultimately responsible for the policy.