



POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Gender and Sexuality

1. BACKGROUND

Rehoboth Christian College exists to provide a distinctly Christian education by helping our students to see Christ as central to, and sovereign over, all aspects of their lives. As Christians, we accept the authority of Scripture – the Bible, comprising both the Old and New Testaments – and seek to be guided by it in every aspect of belief and behaviour. The College is committed to applying scriptural principles to inform and guide our convictions and conduct towards questions of gender and sexuality. We do this because we believe we find God's best for us when we follow God's design of us.

2. RATIONALE AND SCOPE

The College acknowledges the significant discussions society is having about gender and sexuality at the present time. The purpose of this policy is to provide compassionate and clear principles, derived from Scripture, describing our convictions and conduct toward questions of gender and sexuality.

This policy applies to all parents, students, and staff.

3. ATTACHMENTS AND REFERENCES

Where a situation arises that involves the media, staff are to refer to section 11 of the College's Critical Event Response Policy, which outlines the process of dealing with the media.

4. POLICY STATEMENTS

- a) We do not and will not primarily view a person through the lens of their gender or sexuality. Our primary lens is that a person is created by God in His image and is therefore worthy of respect.
- b) We recognise that issues of gender and sexuality are complex with varied understandings as to causes, effects, and expressions. We also recognise that every part of us is touched and tainted by sin and brokenness and this therefore must include our sense of identity and our sexuality.
- c) We believe we find God's best for us when we follow God's design of us. Our understanding from Scripture is that humanity has been created and purposed as male and female, which God asserts in



Genesis 1:27 and Jesus affirms in Matthew 19:4. Sexual expression is created and reserved for the marriage relationship, which God defines in Genesis 2:24 and which Jesus affirms in Matthew 19:5-6.

- d) The call to follow Jesus includes both how we express gender (through expressions of masculinity and femininity that honour God's creation of us as male and female) and how we express sexuality (through faithfulness in marriage and abstinence in singleness). We do not affirm the expression of a gender identity in discord with one's biological sex nor do we affirm sexual expression in discord with God's placement of it in biblical marriage.

- e) As we lead and love people in how gender and sexuality is to be understood and expressed, we will follow Jesus' example by showing grace and sharing truth (John 1:14,17). In other words, our attitudes and actions will seek to be both compassionate and clear – kind and candid – loving and truthful (Ephesians 4:15).