



SPARROWS HI CURRICULUM

Relationships, Marriage & Family

PURPOSE

The purpose of this framework is to help students develop healthy, Christ-centred relationships marked by love, wisdom, integrity and mutual respect.

Students are encouraged to understand relationships through the lens of Scripture and to grow in the skills and character necessary for healthy friendships, family life, Christian community and, where applicable, future marriage and parenting.

PHILOSOPHY

Human beings are created for relationship. We are created to love God, love our neighbour and live faithfully within families and communities.

Healthy relationships are built upon Christlike character rather than merely strong emotions.

This framework seeks to prepare students for a lifetime of faithful relationships by cultivating wisdom, humility, communication and servant-hearted love.

GRADUATE OUTCOME

By graduation, students should be able to:

- build healthy friendships;
- communicate respectfully;
- resolve conflict biblically;
- understand healthy personal boundaries;
- honour parents and family relationships;
- appreciate the value of Christian community;
- understand the biblical significance of marriage and singleness;
- demonstrate increasing emotional maturity.

IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Students begin with the understanding that their identity is found in Jesus Christ. They are encouraged to recognise that:

- every person bears the image of God;
- their worth does not depend upon popularity or relationships;
- they are deeply loved by God;
- healthy relationships flow from a secure identity in Christ.

Students should never feel that marriage or romantic relationships define their value.

FRIENDSHIP

Students explore characteristics of healthy friendship, including:

- trust;
- honesty;
- encouragement;
- loyalty;

- forgiveness;
- healthy boundaries;
- mutual respect.

They also learn to recognise unhealthy patterns such as manipulation, exclusion and gossip.

FAMILY

Students examine the importance of family life. Topics include:

- honouring parents;
- respect between siblings;
- gratitude;
- responsibility within the home;
- forgiveness;
- serving one another.

Students are encouraged to appreciate that every family experiences strengths and challenges, and that God's grace is present in imperfect families.

COMMUNICATION

Students develop practical skills in:

- active listening;
- speaking truth with grace;
- asking good questions;
- expressing disagreement respectfully;
- giving and receiving feedback;
- apologising sincerely.

Communication is viewed as a skill that can be learned and practised.

EMOTIONAL MATURITY

Students learn to:

- recognise emotions;
- respond rather than react;
- manage disappointment;
- develop resilience;
- practise self-control;
- seek help when needed.

Emotional maturity is presented as part of Christian discipleship.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Students explore biblical principles for resolving conflict, including:

- addressing concerns promptly;
- speaking directly;
- listening carefully;
- seeking reconciliation;
- extending forgiveness.

They learn that healthy conflict handled well often strengthens relationships.

BOUNDARIES

Students are taught the importance of healthy boundaries. Topics include:

- respecting personal space;
- appropriate communication;
- consent;
- digital boundaries;
- emotional boundaries;
- recognising controlling behaviour.

Students should understand that healthy boundaries protect relationships rather than weaken them.

MARRIAGE

Students study the biblical understanding of marriage as a covenant relationship. Topics include:

- mutual love;
- faithfulness;
- servant-hearted leadership;
- partnership;
- lifelong commitment;
- shared discipleship.

Marriage is presented as one possible vocation through which Christians may faithfully serve God.

SINGLENES

Students explore the biblical value of singleness. They learn that:

- singleness is honoured in Scripture;
- Jesus and Paul both affirmed the goodness of singleness;
- a full and meaningful Christian life does not depend upon marriage.

Students are encouraged to respect and value Christians in every stage of life.

PARENTING

Students consider parenting as an important calling characterised by:

- love;
- wisdom;
- patience;
- consistency;
- discipleship.

Even students who may never become parents can learn valuable principles about nurturing and caring for others.

HEALTHY ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

Older students explore topics such as:

- mutual respect;
- shared faith;
- communication;
- commitment;
- wisdom in decision-making;

- appropriate boundaries.

Teaching should be age appropriate, biblically grounded and pastorally sensitive.

COMMUNITY

Students recognise that every Christian belongs to the wider family of God. They are encouraged to:

- participate in church life;
- build intergenerational relationships;
- serve others;
- practise hospitality;
- contribute positively to Christian community.

LEARNING PROGRESSION

The program is structured across three stages of secondary education.

Years 7–8	• Friendship; • family; • communication; • kindness; • emotional awareness; • conflict resolution. • Emphasis: everyday relationships.
Years 9–10	• Identity; • boundaries; • communication; • emotional maturity; • healthy friendships; • respectful interactions. • Includes practical scenarios and discussion.

Years 11–12

- Marriage;
- singleness;
- vocation;
- parenting;
- servant leadership within families;
- preparing for adult life.
- Students reflect on the kind of person they are becoming.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Students should participate in:

- discussion groups;
- mentoring conversations;
- role-play scenarios;
- interviews with Christian couples and single adults;
- intergenerational panels;
- reflective journalling;
- service opportunities within families and churches.

Students benefit from hearing diverse stories of faithful Christian living.

ASSESSMENT

Growth may be demonstrated through:

- reflective writing;
- mentoring conversations;
- communication exercises;
- conflict resolution case studies;
- participation in discussion;
- evidence of increasing relational maturity.

Assessment focuses on wisdom, character and practical application.

RECOMMENDED READING

Senior students may benefit from selected works such as:

- Life Together — Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Resources should always be discussed alongside Scripture and the Sparrows HI Statement of Faith.

INTEGRATION

This framework connects with:

- Discipleship & Spiritual Practices;
- Christian Worldview;
- Leadership Development;
- Student Growth & Discipleship Framework;
- Pastoral Care;

- Service & Mission.

Healthy relationships are understood as one of the clearest expressions of Christian maturity.

OUR PRAYER

We pray that every Sparrows HI graduate becomes a person who loves deeply, speaks truthfully, forgives generously and serves faithfully.

Whether called to marriage, singleness, parenting, ministry or another vocation, may they reflect the love of Christ in every relationship entrusted to them.

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

Colossians 3:14