

# RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

## Context

We acknowledge that the “Catholic Faith has a distinctive understanding of the human person, of true relationships and of the nature of community. This understanding should be reflected in the way a Catholic School forms its policy and enables its young people to grow up sharing the experience of belonging to a community with gospel values.” (Department of Catholic Education and Formation Statement on Moral Education in Catholic Schools.)

“Sexuality is a fundamental component of personality, one of its modes of being, of manifestation , of communicating with others, of feeling, of expressing and of living human love. Therefore, it is an integral part of the development of the personality and of the educative process”. (The Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education)

In our school, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is taught within the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church about relationships. We expect all members of the school community to support this.

## Aims

Through the Teaching for Learning in RSE we will enable the pupils to:

- learn about the formation of relationships through the support of our Catholic ethos within a secure and loving environment
- develop self esteem and confidence especially within relationships
- gain accurate information and support
- become effective and responsible members of society
- value and respect themselves and others
- be prepared to face the moral challenges appropriate to their age, likely to confront their generation
- be prepared for life in a pluralistic society

## Objectives

These aims will be achieved by ensuring that pupils are able to:

- understand sexuality is one of the fundamental ways of expressing human love
- have their anxieties and fears allayed and their misconceptions corrected
- protect themselves and know how to find support.
- discuss their thoughts and feelings in a secure climate with respect for confidentiality
- extend their knowledge and understanding about their own growth and development

- develop confidence about their feelings and relationships and the appropriate way to express them
- explore and develop their own attitudes and values, including exploration of their own and others' prejudices

## **Organisation**

### **Whole school:**

RSE is delivered throughout the whole school using a variety of different opportunities for learning. It will be taught informally, discretely and by using cross-curricular links as well as assemblies. The children's age and maturity will be carefully considered so that they are able to gain the knowledge, skills and understanding gradually and appropriately. Due consideration will be given to the differing needs of boys and girls and the particular needs of individual children.

### **Classroom:**

It is recognised that it is important to create an atmosphere in which pupils:

- feel comfortable and trusted
- feel able to contribute
- feel supported and respected
- can express their feelings
- can use the appropriate language as a tool for expressing themselves.

Planning takes into account the appropriate:

- learning objectives
- learning methods
- teaching methods (eg distancing: depersonalising the input when necessary)
- activities
- adult support
- physical environment
- use of resources
- timing
- home links
- grouping of children (eg. single sex groups when exploring the practicalities of menstruation)
- assessment ( to identify current levels of knowledge and concerns as well as formative to inform future planning)

The teaching methods employed will enable the pupils to develop and practise the skills of:

- negotiation
- decision making
- assertion (resisting peer pressure)
- research

- problem-solving
- collaboration
- reflection
- discussion

Pupils will be encouraged to work in a variety of different ways eg:

- producing leaflets and posters
- discussion
- drawings and diagrams
- TV, films and videos
- role play
- visitors
- surveys
- play writing
- displays
- thought showering
- debating
- draw and write/tell activities
- timelines
- family trees
- circle time
- questionnaires
- anonymous question boxes
- worry bags
- concept mapping

## **Resources**

We recognise that appropriate funding needs to be allocated to this area of the curriculum. Parents are welcome to view the resources being used, which are available on the school website. We welcome the opportunity to share resources and ideas with our Catholic family group of schools and follow guidance from the Diocese.

## **Links with Other Policies**

RSE is an integral part of the school's EPR Policy and has intrinsic links with Science and RE. In addition there are links with History, Geography, English, PE and Citizenship.

Reference also needs to be made to the following documents:

Equal Opportunities Policy

Behaviour Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Race Equality Policy

Inclusion Policy

### **Staff Support and Development**

We recognise that delivery of this area of the curriculum can be very demanding and a sensitive and well-informed approach is necessary. Appropriate training and support will be available as and when necessary. The EPR leader, RE leader and Science leader are all available to give staff advice and direction where necessary.

### **Home-School Links**

We recognise that “parents are their child’s first teachers”. Therefore if sensitive issues (eg. contraception, homosexuality and abortion ) are raised by the children they would be referred back to parents for further discussion. These issues are contained within the Key Stage 3 curriculum.

Parents are informed each term of the aspects of RSE and EPR to be delivered within each year group. Parents are encouraged to consult teachers regarding any concerns relating to RSE. It is recognised that parents have the right to withdraw their child from parts of this curriculum area, except for those aspects in the science curriculum which are mandatory. Parents are asked to discuss this with the Class teacher and Headteacher. Parents of Year 5 and Year 6 children are informed (via text message) when Sex and Relationship discrete teaching has been taught.

### **Review**

This Policy will be reviewed annually. It will be reviewed by teaching staff and then Governors. Any amendments will be presented to the full Governing body for their approval.