

Our Lady of Compassion

Catholic Primary School



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

January 2019

Policy for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)



Flying on the Wings of God's Love and Compassion.

Rationale

'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full' (Jn.10.10)

We acknowledge that Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship, as well as Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), are all underpinned by a theology of relationship and are all encompassed in the title 'Relationships and Sex Education' (RSE). Our belief in the unique dignity of the human person as made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in our school. Our approach to relationship and sex education therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and is presented positively and prudently. Stemming from this vision of what it means to be human, we seek to educate the whole child: spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally, psychologically, and physically towards our understanding of Christian maturity.

Following guidance from our own Bishop and Diocese, the Conference of Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE, all Relationship and Sex education in our school will be firmly embedded in the Religious Education framework as it is concerned primarily with nurturing the human wholeness of our pupils. All Relationship and Sex Education will be in accordance with the Church's moral teaching. It will emphasise the importance of the Sacrament of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from and support will be provided to help pupils deal with different sets of values.

Aims of Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

- To encourage pupils' growth in self respect, acknowledging we are all created in the image and likeness of God.
- To help pupils develop an understanding that love is the central basis of relationships.
- To help pupils to understand the nature of relationships and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people.
- To develop pupils' confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.
- To help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships.
- To offer sex education in the wider context of relationships.
- To ensure that pupils protect themselves and ask for help and support when needed. To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty.
- To help pupils to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle.
- To prepare pupils to play an active role as citizens and to understand the Catholic vision of what it means to be citizens of the Kingdom/reign of God.

Delivery of Relationships and Sex Education

Relationships and Sex Education is taught through our life style in school and through the subjects of Religious Education, Science, PSHE and by way of a cross-curricular, integrated approach as a fundamental part of the Catholic Life of the school.

All elements of PSHE and Citizenship, whilst non-statutory at Key Stage 1 and 2, are covered. Significant aspects of Relationship and Sex Education remain part of the National Curriculum for Science. These will be taught to all pupils. (Parents are unable to withdraw pupils from such lessons.)

Key Stage 1 (5-7)

- That humans move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce;
- To name the main external parts of the body;
- That humans grow from babies into children and then into adults, and that adults can produce babies;
- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and other pupils

Key Stage 2 (7 – 11)

- That the life processes common to humans and all animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction
- The main stages of the human life cycle.

We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to Relationships and Sex Education as the school, of its very nature operates through positive human relationships. We recognise, value and greatly appreciate the contribution made by all members of staff in deepening the quality of our Christian community. Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in Relationships and Sex Education. Careful consideration will be given to the wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in their care. While we operate a whole school approach to Relationship and Sex Education through our RSE Programme, pupils in Year 5 will learn about the emotional and physical changes of puberty. For this particular part of the curriculum, children will be taught together. A similar approach will operate in in Year 6 when pupils will cover the life cycle and sexual intercourse.

Resources

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the key persons for children learning about Relationships and Sex - the foremost educators. Our role and our programme simply complement their role in nurturing their children's human wholeness. However, the role of parents and our day-to-day interactions in school are currently supported by the following curriculum resources:

A Journey in Love (Early Years-Year 6) - A developmental programme for children in the primary years.

At Key Stage 1 children will be given the opportunity to:

- Understand the importance of valuing themselves and others.
- Recognise their membership of the Catholic family and the roles of individuals in their families.
- Understand growth and know themselves as male or female.
- Be able to name the main external parts of the body.
- Recognise that babies have special needs.
- Appreciate relationships, friends, family, working together, sharing, playing together.
- Know about rituals marking life, especially birth, marriage and death.
- Recognise the range of emotions and how we deal with them.
- To know about being safe.
- To know the difference between good and bad touching.
- To appreciate that some diseases are infectious.
- To have an awareness of personal health, safety and personal hygiene.

At Key Stage 2, children will be given the opportunity to:

- Value themselves as a child of God and their body as God's gift to them.
- Understand that they grow and change throughout life.
- Understand what is meant by relationships within families, friends and communities.
- Develop an appreciation of what is involved in bringing up children and what responsibilities parents have.

- Become aware of the different patterns of friendship.
- Know the rituals celebrated in Church marking birth, marriage and death.
- Be aware of their changing emotions and the need to respect other people's emotions and feelings.
- Begin to know about and understand the changes that come about through puberty.
- Know and understand their own bodies and their need for personal hygiene.
- Know the names for the parts of the body.
- Know the basic biology of human reproduction.
- Appreciate that life is precious and a gift from God.
- Become aware of the choices they make and that there are good choices and wrong choices, e.g.drugs.
- Recognise the importance of forgiveness in relationships.

Assessment Recording and Reporting

A record is kept in teacher's planning of the delivery of Relationships and Sex Education. The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the coordinator in accordance with the school's monitoring and evaluation policy. Pupils are given the opportunity for self evaluation at an appropriate level for each year group. Reporting is made in individual pupil's reports under 'General Development'.

Outside Agencies

The expertise of outside agencies may be used appropriately to support but not at the expense of the school's delivery. The school is particularly thankful of the help available from local diocesan agencies and charities such as Nugent.

Curriculum Continuity

The RE Co-ordinator, PSHE Co-ordinator and Science Co-ordinator have ongoing dialogue with each other as appropriate to ensure that; Relationships and Sex, RE, Collective Worship, Spiritual, Moral, PSHE and Science policies complement each other.

Safeguarding Procedures

The school has procedures to deal with any sensitive issues or children thought to be vulnerable. Staff will pass on any concerns of this nature to the designated child protection officer in school. The designated persons are T.Houghton (Head teacher) and A.Lawson (Deputy Head teacher). All staff have a summarised version of Safeguarding Procedures on their staff identity badges.

The Governing Body

The Governing body and Foundation Governors in particular recognise their responsibility to ensure the Relationships and Sex Education programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church's teaching as outlined in "Learning to Love" the Bishops of England and Wales document 2016. The designated governor for RSE is Mrs Dickinson.

The Role of Parents

The Church has always recognised that it is the privilege and the responsibility of parents to educate and inform their children in all matters pertaining to personal growth and development particularly in the sensitive area of their moral education and sexual development. The Church also recognises that many parents require help and support in this task from both schools and parishes.

The Governing body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishops' Conference and will always ensure that:

- Parents are supported in their task.
- Parents are consulted and kept informed of the Relationships and Sex Education Programme; its contents, evaluation and review and any subsequent developments.

Right of Withdrawal

It is our hope that parents would wish their children to be involved in the schools positive and prudent programme of Relationship and Sex Education, following annual consultation regarding the school's approach. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from such lessons (not included in National Curriculum Science) after discussion with the head teacher.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored annually by the Relationships and Sex Education Coordinator and will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.

This Policy will be reviewed in January 2021.

Signed: (RSE Coordinator)

Signed: (Head teacher)

Date:

See also:

- Spiritual Development Policy*
- Moral Development Policy*
- Social and Cultural Policy*
- Religious Education Policy*