

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

Dear Parents,

We teach the 'Journey in Love' programme to support the teaching of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) throughout the school. Following guidance from our 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, Sex and Health 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. We believe that our approach to teaching and learning RSHE must firstly be rooted in Scripture, Gospel values and the Catholic Church's teachings; thus our aim is to educate the whole child spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally and physically towards maturity and adulthood.

When it comes to love and relationships, the pressures on young people are greater than they have ever been. Without providing an education in this area, we leave young people vulnerable to receiving this information second hand and from potentially damaging sources that undermine the moral teachings of Christ and His Church. We are also mindful that young people are bombarded with false body images and stereotypes that would leave them vulnerable to accepting an image of themselves and others that is far less than God's desire for them. It is essential therefore that our children are given every opportunity to discover the full miracle of God's creation that is unique to them; that they know that they, and the people around them, are created out of unconditional love and that when we live out the Gospel message of Christ, we can together become all that God created us to be.

A Journey in Love Programme

A Journey in Love has its foundational premise: the belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God and, as a consequence, gender and sexuality are God's gift, reflect God's beauty and share in the divine creativity.

In order that children may grow and develop healthily and holistically towards an understanding of their gender and its implications for successful relationships, they must be at ease with themselves and grow in self- knowledge.

An aspect of the mystery of love is treated in each year group and children and young people are encouraged to marvel at the wonder and beauty of God's creative love. This is reflected in each stage of a person's growth in the Primary years through a series of suggested, progressive and developmental tasks, activities and reflections which focus on physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.

Year Group Curriculum Overviews

Early Years: The wonder of being special and unique

- To recognise that we are all different and unique.
- To celebrate being a special person in God's family.

Y1: We meet God's love in our family

- To recognise signs that I am loved in my family.
- To recognise how I am cared for and kept safe.

Y2: We meet God's love in the community

- Recognise the joy and friendship of belonging to a diverse community.
- To describe ways of being safe in communities.

Y3: How we live in love

- To describe how friendships make us feel happy and safe.
- To describe how friendships can break down and be repaired.

Y4: God loves us in our differences

- Describe how we should all be accepted and respected.
- Describe how we should all be treated in a diverse and modern society.

Y5: God loves me in my changing and development

- Grow in awareness of the physical changes in puberty.
- Grow in awareness of the emotional changes that accompany puberty.

Y6: The wonder of God's love in creating new life

- An understanding of stable and caring relationships.
- Explain how human life is conceived, focusing on Catholic teaching.

Parents are able to view the contents of your child's curriculum by speaking to the class teacher. Where there are significant and potentially sensitive topics planned for, a separate letter to notify parents and carers of relevant year groups will be sent out to you prior to the teaching sessions. This will give you time to discuss the topic with your child in more detail, if you wish to do so.

Right to withdraw

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from all or part of the 'sex and relationship' education provided at school except from sex education included in statutory National Curriculum science. We believe this partnership between home and school is very important to promote a positive learning environment for the children to develop these life skills.

If you would like to withdraw your child, please email admin@olocprimary.co.uk to discuss this further.

Thank you for your support in ensuring we provide a positive and prudent sex education to our children.

RE Coordinator
Our Lady of Compassion