



## Education for Relationships and Sex Education Policy

### *Everyone Together With Jesus*

*Inspired by Jesus, we grow closer to God through prayer and worship.  
We always do our best and show respect, love and care for everyone.*

#### School Aims

1. To be inspired by Jesus.
2. To enable everyone to do his/her best.
3. To work together with parents, parish, local and wider community.

Stemming from our vision of what it means to be human, we seek to educate the whole person: spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally, psychologically, and physically towards Christian maturity.

We acknowledge that PSHE and Citizenship as well as Relationship and Sex Education are all underpinned by a theology of relationship and so are all encompassed in the title 'Education of Relationships and Sex Education policy'.

We support the recommendation of the DFE to root Relationships and Sex Education within the wider PSHE and Citizenship framework and to have an overall policy entitled 'Education for Relationships and Sex Education'.

This policy accords with the following legislation:

**Race Relations (Amendment) Act (2000);  
Disability Discrimination (Amendment) Act (2002);  
Sex Discrimination Act (1975).**

We recognise our important role in Relationship and Sex Education.  
We acknowledge the need to address issues raised by the actual experience of pupils today.

We seek to provide an environment where pupils are informed about relationships in the context of the Catholic faith.

## **AIMS**

- To encourage pupils' growth in self-respect, acknowledging we are all created in the 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 understand the way that humans reproduce
- To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty.
- To ensure that pupils protect themselves and ask for help and support when needed.
- That the children recognise the importance of family life
- 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**

Education for Relationships and Sex Education is taught through:

- 'Journey in Love' whole school scheme written by Sister Jude.
- PSHE and Science as well as other areas of the curriculum by way of a cross curricular, integrated approach.
- 'All That I Am' scheme is also used in Y5 and Y6 alongside 'Journey in Love' as they explore puberty.
- We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to education for personal relationships as the school, of its very nature operates through positive human relationships.

All staff realise the obligation to deliver Education for Relationship and Sex Education, in their role as class teachers or support staff. Staff also recognise the need for close co – operation with each other and other subject areas in order to ensure an holistic approach to Education for Relationship and Sex Education.

We recognise that Education for Relationship and Sex Education requires sensitive teaching which is matched in particular by the specific needs and concerns of pupils.

Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in Education for Relationship and Sex Education and careful consideration will need to be given to the inevitable wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in the class. All teachers involved in Education for Relationship and Sex Education are required to be sensitive, credible and consistent.

All pupils are given equal access to Education for Relationship and Sex Education, including Sex Education, within the curriculum.

## **THE NATIONAL HEALTHY SCHOOL STANDARD**

We now participate in the National Healthy School Standard scheme, which promotes health education. As participants in this scheme we: consult with parents and carers on all matters of health education policy; listen to the views of the children in our school regarding sex and relationship education; use the recommended resources “A Journey in Love and “All that I Am”. “ to deliver EPR lessons.

## **CURRICULUM ORGANISATION**

We teach about sex and relationships through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main Education for Relationships and Sex Education in our RE curriculum, we also do some sex and relationship education through other subject areas (e.g. science and PE) which we believe contribute significantly to children's knowledge and understanding of their own bodies, and how they are changing and developing.

In PSHE, we teach children about relationships, and we encourage them to discuss issues. We teach pupils about the parts of the body, and how these work, and we explain to the children what will happen to their bodies during puberty.

Sex and relationship education is part of the National Curriculum for science. In science lessons teachers will explain to children about the changes that will occur to their bodies during puberty and how a baby is born. For this aspect of our teaching, we follow national guidance in science and the Journey in Love scheme. In Key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn about friendships and how to manage their feelings. Children learn to appreciate the fact that people are not all the same, and that we need to respect each other. During Key Stage 2, we teach about life processes, and the main stages of the human life cycle, and puberty in greater depth.

In Year 5 & 6, we place a particular emphasis on health education and puberty as many children experience puberty at this age. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how children's bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

We arrange a meeting for all parents and carers of children in Year 5 & 6 to discuss this particular programme of lessons, to explain what the issues are, and how they are taught, and to see the materials the school uses in its teaching.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Teachers conduct sex and relationship education lessons in a sensitive manner, and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved (or seems likely to be involved) in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference seriously, and deal with it as a matter of Child protection. Teachers will respond in a

similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. They will not try to investigate, but will immediately inform the named person for child protection issues about their concerns. The head teacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with social service professionals (see also our policy on Child Protection).

## **THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND CARERS**

'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.'(Roman Catholic Bishops' Low Week Meeting 1994)

At St Joseph's we are aware that the primary role in relationship and sex education lies with parents and carers. We therefore wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents and carers of children at our school, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

To promote this objective, we:

- inform parents and carers about the school's sex and relationship education policy and practice;
- answer any questions that parents or carers may have about the sex And relationship education of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents or carers raise with teachers Or governors about this policy, or about the arrangements for sex And relationship education in the school;
- encourage parents and carers to be involved in reviewing the school policy, making modifications to it as necessary;
- inform parents and carers about the best practice known with regard to Sex and relationship education, so that the teaching in school supports the Key messages that parents and carers give to children at home.

We believe that through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing bodies and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex and relationship education programme that we teach in our school (but not from the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under the National Curriculum for science). If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex and relationship education lessons, they should discuss this with the Headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents and carers in this regard.

Child Withdrawal: It is our hope that parents would wish pupils to be involved in the schools programme of sex and relationship education. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from this but not from those areas

which are required by National Curriculum Science. Parents with concerns are invited in the first instance, to arrange an appointment with the school to discuss these concerns and see if they can be resolved. If the matter remains unresolved, parents need to notify the Governors of their intention to withdraw their child from the sex education programme.

## **THE ROLE OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, give us valuable support with our sex and relationship education programme. Other people that we call on include local clergy, social workers and youth workers.

## **THE ROLE OF 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 "Leaning to Love" the Bishops of England and Wales document 2016.

## **THE ROLE OF THE HEADTEACHER AND RSE LEAD**

It is the responsibility of the Head teacher and the RSE Lead to ensure that both staff and parents or carers are informed about our Relationship and Sex Education Policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Head teacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training so that they can teach about sex effectively, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Head teacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school Relationship and Sex Education programme and ensures that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within its framework.

The Head teacher and RSE Lead monitors this policy and children's work on a regular basis, and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

## **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

The curriculum committee of the governing body monitors the impact of our Relationship and Sex Education policy on an annual basis. This committee reports its findings and recommendations to the governing body, as necessary, if the policy needs modification. The curriculum committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents and carers about the Relationships and Sex education programme, and makes a record of all such comments. Governors require the Head teacher to keep a written record, giving details of the content and delivery of the Relationship and Sex education programme.