

Relationship and Sex Education Policy

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Scripture Quote

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

Background

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 central importance 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' 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

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To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty
To help pupils 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 RSE

RSE is taught through our lifestyle in school and through the subjects of Religious Education, Science and by way of a cross-curricular, integrated approach.

All elements of PHSE 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)

The 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 process 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 RSE 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 and support staff will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in RSE. Careful consideration will be given to the wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in their care.

We adopt a whole school approach to relationship and sex education which is explored through the Come and See programme, Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL), P.H.S.E, Philosophy for Children (P4C), Think Yourself Great and Social stories. In addition, pupils in years 5 and 6 will also take part in the 'All that I Am' programme of study, which is approved and endorsed by the Archdiocese. Pupils in years 5 and 6 will learn about the emotional and physical changes of puberty, the complexities and dynamics of relationships and the Church's teachings on related matters.

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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 are currently supported by the following curriculum resources:

All that I Am
Journey in Love
Learning to Love

Assessment Recording and Reporting

A record is kept in teacher's planning of the delivery of RSE. The All that I am programme in years 5 and 6 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 Comments'

Outside agencies

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

Curriculum Continuity

RSE, RE Spiritual, Moral and PHSE policies complement each other as appropriate.

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 Governing Body

The governing body and Foundation Governors in particular recognise their responsibility to ensure the RSE programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church's teaching.

The Role of Parents

The Church has always recognised that it is the privilege and 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

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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 RSE 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 schools approach. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from such lessons (not included in National Curriculum Science).

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored annually by the RSE coordinator and will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.