

St Paul's Catholic Primary School
Policy for RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE)

Living Our Faith by Word and Deed

As children of God we value and respect each other;
We love Jesus and through our relationships with others we share this love;
We work in partnership with home, the parish of St. Paul's and the local community;
We support and encourage everybody to achieve their best in work and play;
We celebrate each others achievements;
We say sorry, support and forgive each other as Jesus showed us;
We prepare for and share the sacraments;
We respect other people's beliefs and cultures;
We support those in need.

School Aims

1. To ensure that everything we do is underpinned by our mission statement – 'Living our Faith by Word and Deed.
2. We aim to provide a worshipping community that holds and celebrates Christ as the centre of its faith and life.
3. To recognise that every child matters and to put into place the practice in all aspects of our work that ensures that all learners are given equality of opportunity and treated fairly.
4. To promote and achieve high standards for all by providing teaching and learning of the highest quality so that each child reaches their full potential.
5. To treat learners as individuals and to differentiate teaching and learning to take account of their individual needs.
6. To provide opportunities for learners to develop their physical, mental, social, spiritual, moral and cultural needs.
7. To help and encourage children to progress academically and socially through a broad and balanced education in a safe, secure and stimulating environment.
8. We aim to make learning fun using links between subjects whenever possible.
9. To enliven and enrich the curriculum by visits, visitors, and extensive use of the environment.
10. We aim to promote the highest standards of behaviour where children are encouraged to be responsible for their own actions.
11. To equip children with attitudes, skills and knowledge to learn independently.
12. We aim to continually strengthen relations between children, staff, parents, governors, the parish and the whole school community to foster the aims of the school.
13. To provide a welcoming, friendly and happy place where learners feel safe and secure.
14. To make St Paul's a place of enjoyment where success is celebrated.

In this policy the Governors and teachers, in partnership with pupils and their parents, set out their intentions about relationships and sex education (RSE). We set out our rationale for and approach to relationships and sex education in the school.

Defining Relationship and Sex Education

The DFE guidance defines RSE as "lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health". It is about the development of the pupil's knowledge and understanding of her or him as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. The DFE identifies three main elements: "attitudes and values, personal and social skills, and knowledge and understanding"

Statutory Curriculum Requirements

We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSE which are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science. However, the reasons for our inclusion of RSE go further.

We are involved in relationships and sex education precisely because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person. The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Our approach to RSE therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

At the heart of the Christian life is the Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in loving relationship and embracing all people and all creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God's gift, reflect God's beauty, and share in the divine creativity. RSE, therefore, will be placed firmly within the context of relationship as it is there that sexuality grows and develops.

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE RSE will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils. It is centred on Christ's vision of being human as good news and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

All RSE 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.

Values and Virtues

Our programme enshrines Catholic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life. It also promotes those virtues which are essential in responding to the God's call to love others with a proper respect for their dignity and the dignity of the human body. The following virtues will be explicitly explored and promoted: faithfulness, fruitfulness, chastity, integrity, prudence, mercy and compassion.

Objectives

To develop the following attitudes and virtues:

- reverence for the gift of human sexuality and fertility;
- respect for the dignity of every human being – in their own person and in the person of others;
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures;
- responsibility for their own actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others;
- celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life;
- fidelity in relationships.

Equalities

The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, pregnancy, maternity, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

Content of the RSE Curriculum

Three aspects of RSE - attitudes and values, knowledge and understanding, and personal and social skills will be provided in three inter-related ways: the whole school/ethos dimension; a cross-curricular dimension and a specific relationships and sex curriculum.

Our developmental programme 'A Journey in Love' has been written as a progressive scheme of work that supports the Religious Education, PSHE and Science already taught within the school. As children progress through the school, they discover more about themselves and the wider world. A 'Journey in Love' supports

children in growing and developing healthy and holistically towards an understanding of their gender and its implications for successful relationships. Throughout 'A Journey In Love' children 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 developmental tasks, activities and reflections which focus on physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development. As with all aspects of learning, children are naturally curious and many will have questions related to their lessons. Opportunities to discuss questions form part of the lessons and again these are treated with care and understanding.

Parents and Carers

We recognise that parents/carers are the primary educators of their children. As a Catholic school, we provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children. Therefore, the school will support parents and carers with answering any questions they may have about their children's learning.

Parents have **the right to withdraw** their children from RSE except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to notify the school by contacting the headteacher. The school will provide support to Parents/Carers by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning.

Responsibility for teaching the programme

Responsibility for the specific relationships and sex education programme lays with class teachers. However, all staff will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspect of the RSE programme. They will also be contributing to the development of pupils' personal and social skills.

External Visitors

Our school will often call upon help and guidance from outside agencies and health specialists to deliver aspects of RSE. Such visits will always complement the current programme and never substitute or replace teacher led sessions.

Governors

- Review the RSE policy, in consultation with parents and teachers;
- Ensure that the policy is available to parents;
- Ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies
- Ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children;
- Ensure that the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum science topics and the setting of RSE within PSHE.

The **Headteacher** takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, the Diocesan Schools' Service and the Local Education Authority, also appropriate agencies.

The **PSHE/RSE Co-ordinator** with the head teacher has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RSE and the provision of in-service training.

All Staff have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach RSE in accordance with the Catholic Ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available as required for all staff teaching RSE.

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the Head teacher, RSE Co-ordinator, the Governing Body and Staff. The next review date is Spring 2020.