

POLICY FOR EDUCATION FOR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN A CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Catholic Academy Trust in East Berkshire
St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Learning and loving on our journey with Jesus.



To the greater glory of God

Education in Personal Relationships Policy

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 Sex and Relationship Education (SRE), are all underpinned by a theology of relationship and are all encompassed in the title 'Education for Personal Relationships' (EPR).

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 sex and relationship 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 Diocese, the Conference of Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DfE, all sex and relationship education in our school will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned primarily with nurturing the human wholeness of our pupils.

All sex and relationship 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 Education for Personal Relationships (EPR)

- 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.

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- To help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships
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- 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 EPR

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

All elements of PSHE and Citizenship, whilst non-statutory at Key Stage 1 and 2, are covered. Significant aspects of sex and relationship 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 EPR 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 EPR. 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 Sex and Relationship Education through our EPR Programme, pupils in the summer term of Year Five will learn about the emotional and the physical changes of puberty. For this particular part of the curriculum, children will remain together at first prior to forming separate groups of girls and boys for extension discussions. A similar approach will operate in the summer term in Year Six.

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Resources

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the key persons for children learning about sex and relationships; 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 curriculum resources.

We identify Personal, Social and Health Education as a separately planned subject and sex education is an element of this subject. However it is also dealt with in the context of the classroom and everyday life of the school, and may be taught in a cross-curricular way especially in relation to the science and R.E. curriculum.

Schemes of work are in place to ensure that a coherent and progressive curriculum is offered to all the children. Throughout each year group there is an age appropriate focus on issues such as friendship, self-esteem, relationships with others and an awareness of physical changes. Teaching will be delivered by class teachers as part of a planned development.

The resource, A Journey in Love, has, as 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; 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 progressive and developmental tasks, activities and reflections which focus on physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.

The programme is in line with Catholic teaching.

All parents are informed about S.R.E. through the S.R.E. Booklet (see Appendix 1).

Assessment Recording and Reporting

A record is kept in teacher's planning of the delivery of EPR. The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the subject leader 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 will be used appropriately to support the school's delivery.

Curriculum Continuity

The school has an ongoing dialogue with the PSHE subject leader of St Mary's; EPR and SRE 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 EPR programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church's teaching

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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 EPR 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 sex and relationship 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 Headteacher.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or when necessary

This policy was ratified by the Governing Body on

Date.....

Signed.....

This policy will be reviewed in spring 2020