



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

**This booklet is designed to tell you about
Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)
at our school.**

'God's love for us is fundamental for our lives, and it raises important questions about who God is and who we are.'

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This aspect of the National Curriculum is taught throughout the school in our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) lessons and follows the programme A Journey in Love. Other aspects of SRE are taught through statutory elements of the Science curriculum.

SRE is learning about our bodies, our health and our relationships. It should be taught gradually and set in a context of clear values, including the value of family life, marriage and of loving and stable relationships in bringing up children. It should teach children and young people to develop values, attitudes, personal and social skills and increase their knowledge and understanding to make informed decisions and life choices.

We believe that it is the primary responsibility of parents to enable their children to grow in an understanding of human relationships. We aim to support our parents in this role and seek close co-operation.

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.

The principles upon which our Education in Personal Relationships programme is based are as follows:

- Relationships education is taught in the context of life as a Christian in the community.
- Pupils learn from the quality of the personal relationships and the attitudes that they experience during their time in school.
- It is the parents' role to prepare their children for adulthood. We aim to work in partnership.
- Sex Education forms a small part of Education in Personal, Social and Health Education – based in the context of developing a healthy lifestyle. It is not taught in isolation.
- This vision is reflected in our Mission Statement.

The following objectives are addressed in the lessons for each year group:-

Year R.

Children know and understand that God has made them unique and that although we are different we are all special to him.

Year 1

Children know and understand that they are growing and developing as members of their own family and God's family.

Year 2

Children know and understand that they are growing and developing in a God-given community.

Year 3

Children know and understand the virtues essential to friendship (eg. loyalty, responsibility ...) and experience the importance both of forgiving and being forgiven and of celebrating God's forgiveness.

Year 4

Children know and understand that they are different and celebrate these differences as they appreciate that God's love accepts us as we are and as we change.

Year 5

Children know and become aware of the physical and emotional changes that accompany puberty – sensitivity, mood swings, anger, boredom etc. and grow further in their understanding of God's presence in their daily lives.

Year 6

Children develop, in an appropriate way for their age, an understanding of sexuality and grow further in their appreciation of their dignity and worth as children of God.

**All resources are available for you to look at.
Staff are very willing to discuss the content of the
curriculum with you.**

*'Love is the light – and in the end, the only light – that can always
illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep
living and working. Love is possible, and we are able to practise it
because we are created in the image of God.'*

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Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children from Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) lessons following discussion with the Headteacher. If they choose to do this they have the responsibility to provide alternative SRE.

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