

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Policy on Sex & Relationship Education

“To the greater glory of God.”

This policy supports the distinctive nature of our school, which is based upon the teachings of Jesus and the commitment to fulfil each child’s potential whilst recognising their uniqueness.

It complements all other school policies, particularly those on Religious Education, Worship, Behaviour and Moral and Spiritual development.

Through this policy and the curriculum covered we seek to support the following statement made by Bishop Crispian:

Education is for life and not simply for the passing of examinations and the acquiring of qualifications. Because we are all engaged in life – long learning, personal relationships and our ability to create and handle them are absolutely crucial to our development as human beings.

It is central to our Christian faith that each human person has dignity and value, which demand respect and love.

This school recognises that values and attitudes come first from the home and that the best place for such education is in the context of a loving, caring family. The school sees itself and parents as partners in a programme of sex education. The principle aim of this is to provide the children with facts and information, which will give them the confidence to question and make informed decisions in the context of Christian values and moral principles.

Sex and Relationship Education (S.R.E.) deals with matters related to personal dignity and the correct use of the body, mind and spirit as well as related issues which include personal sexuality, handling of emotions, bereavement and grieving, health education, the use and abuse of drugs, bullying, personal safety and the influence of the multimedia culture. Sex Education is approached as one aspect (albeit an important one) of S.R.E.

At St. Mary’s, through our S.R.E. curriculum we seek to:

- Encourage and support the work of parents in giving their children appropriate moral, social and sex education.
- Help our children to develop skills to enable them to make right judgements and to take the right actions in the many and varied situations in which they find themselves.
- Instil in our children respect for themselves and others.
- Give children healthy and positive attitudes towards human sexuality based on Christian principles.

- Give our children a true appreciation of all their human gifts.
- Help our children to understand the nature of relationships and reflect upon the way in which these are conducted.
- Help children acquire the necessary skills to develop and handle both their present relationships and those that are likely to occur in the future.
- To challenge discrimination and prejudice in society and to promote equal opportunities.

Our S.R.E. curriculum encourages the development of skills and attitudes in three areas of life – self, family and community.

Self

The Christian imperative to love self shows an understanding of valuing, respecting and understanding self and others as the basis for personal relationships.

Family

The family is at the heart of the life and mission of the Catholic Church.

Community

Human beings live in community, we work to proclaim and extend the Kingdom of God for the good of all humanity.

Organisation of Sex and Relationship Education

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).

Parents' Right of Withdrawal

Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of a school's programme of sex education, other than those elements which are required by the 'National Curriculum Science Order.' Nevertheless, any parent or guardian with concerns or wishing to exercise this right will be requested to discuss the matter with the Headteacher and a member of the Governing Body. We are working towards pupils taking their own decision about access to the SRE programme (as will happen in their secondary schools).

Monitoring and Evaluation

Pupil's work is regularly monitored and evaluation by:

- The class teacher, on the completion of lessons
- The headteacher in regular planning file monitoring and lesson observation
- The PSHE subject leader through lesson observation and work sampling
- The R.E. subject leader

The policy will be reviewed every three years.

This policy was ratified by the Governing Body on

Date

Signed

This policy will be reviewed in Summer 2015.