



Together with Jesus, we grow in love

Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

‘I have come that you might have life and have it to the full’ (John 10:10)

Rationale

As a part of the Catholic Church, we believe that each human being is made in the image and likeness of God, with the purpose of having a loving relationship with God and each other. Our approach to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is rooted in the Catholic Church’s teachings of the human person, and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals. RSE encompasses Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), Citizenship and Sex and Relationships Education (SRE), underpinned by a theology of relationship. 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. 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”. Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the Department for Education, RSE will be firmly embedded in the Come and See RE curriculum and the PHSE curriculum, Get Set for Life, as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils. 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. We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSE which are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science.

Aims of RSE

- To know and understand that we are all created in the image and likeness of God, and to understand how this is reflected in the Church’s teachings on the nature of relationships and marriage.
- 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.
- To encourage children to make choices within relationships with integrity, respect and responsibility.
- To develop confidence and deepen understanding when talking, listening and thinking about relationships.
- To help pupils to develop an understanding of different forms of love, as the basis for relationships, appropriate to their age.
- To encourage children to reflect upon their relationships and develop the ability to manage their feelings within relationships.

- To be able to understand and assess risks and manage behaviours, in order to minimise risk to health and personal integrity, and know how to ask for support if necessary.
- To help children to develop the personal and social skills to love and be loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships, free from exploitation, abuse and bullying.
- To root sex education within Catholic teaching and the wider context of relationships and marriage.
- To understand and ensure that children are ready for the physical and psychological changes within puberty.

Curriculum and Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught through the subjects of Religious Education, Get Set for Life, Science and by way of a cross-curricular, integrated approach. We will be following the A Journey in Love scheme. A Journey in Love looks at the physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspects of love in each topic.

- Reception: God loves each of us in our uniqueness
- Year 1: We meet God's love in our family
- Year 2: We meet God's love in the community
- Year 3: How we live in love
- Year 4: God loves us in our differences
- Year 5: God loves me in my changing and development
- Year 6: The wonder of God's love in creating new life

Responsibility for the specific relationships and sex education programme lies with the class teacher and with Mrs Klein, the Get Set for Life teacher. Teachers will be expected to teach RSE in accordance with the Catholic Ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RSE. However, all staff will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspect of the RSE programme. They will be role models for pupils of good, healthy, wholesome relationships as between staff, other adults and pupils. They will also be contributing to the development of pupils' personal and social skills. The expertise of outside agencies and health visitors will be used appropriately to support but not at the expense of the school's delivery.

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.

Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in RSE.. Whilst promoting Catholic values and virtues and teaching in accordance with Church teaching, we will ensure that pupils are offered a balanced programme by providing an RSE programme that offers a range of viewpoints on issues. Careful consideration will be given to the wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in their care

Parents and Carers

We recognise that parents (and other carers who stand in their place) are the primary educators of their children. 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. 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 by workshops to help parents/carers to find out more. Parents/carers will be informed by letter when the more sensitive aspects of RSE will be covered in order that they can be prepared to talk and answer questions about their children's learning. Parents are consulted and kept informed of the RSE programme' its contents, evaluation and review, and any resources used by the school in the RSE programme.

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, 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 Head teacher, Mrs R. Davidson.

Inclusion and Differentiated Learning

We will ensure RSE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances; for example their own sexual orientation, faith or culture and is taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help.

Assessment Recording and Reporting

A record is kept in teacher's planning of the delivery of RSE and class floor books will be used to record evidence of the teaching of RSE throughout the curriculum. The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the co-ordinator 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.

Supporting children who are at risk

Children will need to feel safe and secure in the environment in which RSE takes place. Effective RSE will provide opportunities for discussion of what is and is not appropriate in relationships. Such discussion may well lead to disclosure of a safeguarding issue. Teachers will need to be aware of the needs of their pupils and not let any fears or worries go unnoticed. Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is a victim of, or is at risk of, abuse they are required to follow the school's safeguarding policy and immediately inform the Designated Child Protection Officer.

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, and includes statutory coverage of the National Curriculum for Science within RSE.

Monitoring and Review

The RSE Co-ordinator will monitor the provision of the various dimensions of the programme by examining plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils work at regular intervals. This policy will be monitored annually by the RSE Co-ordinator and will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.