



St Mary’s R.C. Primary School



Sex and Relationship Education Policy

February 2016

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7



Religious Education Policy

| Date | Review Date | Coordinator | Nominated Governor |
|---------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 29/2/16 | 1/1/17 | Miss Amy Wilcox | Father Hennessy |

Missions Statement

At St. Mary's R.C. Primary School we *work, pray, share and learn together* in a supportive environment in partnership with parents and parish to ensure that each child develops academically, spiritually, physically and socially. Children are valued as individuals and encouraged to strive for self improvement whilst remaining sensitive to the needs of others.

We use the following motto to help us remember our mission:

“Working, Praying, Sharing and Learning Together”
“Gweithio, Gweddiwn, Rhannu a Ddysgu gyda’n Gilydd”

Vision Statement and Aims

St Mary's R.C:

Recognises that children succeed best in an atmosphere where they work, pray, share and learn together with the example of Christ at its centre.

Welcome and cares for everyone, promoting strong links with and supported by home, parish and community.

Celebrates our achievements in all activities and recognises and rejoices in the talents of others.

Respects the uniqueness of each individual and caters for their particular needs.

We aim to:

- To create a caring Catholic Community in which the Catholic Faith is put into daily practice and in which Catholic Doctrine and Principles are explored.
- To deliver a relevant, differentiated and stimulating curriculum which offers equal opportunity for self improvement through raising standards allowing all to succeed.
- To involve both the parents and the parish in the education of the children.
- To foster positive attitudes to learning and self-development and to encourage high expectations.
- To develop concerns for all and an understanding of how an individual's actions affect others.
- To promote a healthy and active lifestyle.
- To work with all our Comprehensive Schools to ensure that the children are well prepared to continue the learning process.



Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Definition:

St Mary's R.C. Primary School Sex and Relationship Education Policy is taught as part of the Personal and Social Education Programme, which is taught in every year in a developmental manner. The term 'sex education' refers to the teachings of information relating to reproduction, growth and development, personal relationships and citizenship. The programme is based on the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. The programme is seen as supporting the parents of our pupils in the fundamental role as the first educators of their children, especially in this area.

Rationale:

We recognize pupils as unique persons, created in the image of God, loved by God and intended to have life to the full. The Sex and Relationship Education Programme is based on the Archdiocesan approved scheme 'A Journey in Love.'

Aims and Objectives

Sex and Relationship Education at St Mary's RC Primary has the following aims:

- To promote the development of attitudes and values which are truly gospel inspired such as love, truth, justice, freedom, integrity and reconciliation.
- To provide, appropriate to age and ability, an accurate knowledge and understanding about sexuality and relationships.
- To enable pupils to develop personal and social skills that will support them in being confident in right relationships, keeping themselves safe from harm and avoiding exploitation.

Roles and Responsibilities

Parents:

We acknowledge that parents are the first and best educators of their children and that the school works in partnership with them. To this end there will be regular consultation and information sharing with parents.

We acknowledge the rights of parents to withdraw their children from sex and relationship education, excepting those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders. Should they wish to do so they will be asked to notify the school.

There will be meetings and information given to parents about the programmes and resources which will be used. Parents will be able to examine the programme their children are following if they wish.

Parents will be encouraged to talk to their children about lessons at school and to listen to their questions and thoughts.



Governors

Governors have responsibility for ensuring there is a sex and relationship education policy, in consultation with parents and teachers, which is in keeping with Catholic teaching. If necessary they will provide guidelines for the teaching of sensitive issues. They will ensure that the policy is available to parents and that parents know of their right to withdraw their children. Governors will ensure that the programme and the resources are monitored and evaluated.

Teachers:

Teachers have the responsibility to:

- Advise governors on the content and organization of sex and relationship education.
- Develop suitable procedures for dealing with requests from parents to withdraw their children from sex education lessons.
- Contribute to reviewing existing provision.
- Use professional skills in developing the curriculum.
- Draw on help and guidance from relevant sources, e.g. Health professionals, marriage and family life workers.
- Teach sex and relationship education curriculum as detailed in the scheme of work.
- Participate in monitoring and evaluating sex and relationship education.

Provision of Programme:

Responsibility for the policy and provision of sex and relationship education rests with the governing body. The headteacher carries delegated responsibility and is supported in the oversight of the programme. All staff have some responsibility for the sex and relationship education programme, supported by the SRE Coordinator who has specific responsibility for this area of the curriculum.

Programme Management:

Sex and relationships is taught cross curricula throughout our whole curriculum and daily life in school and through the subjects of Religious Education, Science (KS2), Knowledge and Understanding of the World (FP).

The school uses the scheme ‘A Journey in Love’ to teach discrete sex and relationship lessons, a scheme which has been approved by the Archdiocese. The scheme covers the following learning objectives for each year group:

| Year Group | Learning Objective |
|-------------------|---|
| Nursery | Children begin to know and understand that they are part of the wonder of God's love and creation. |
| Reception | Children know and understand that God has made them unique and that although we are all 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 all different and celebrate |



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| | 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 elements of PSHE and Citizenship, whilst non-statutory at Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2, are covered. Significant aspects of sex and relationship education remain part of the National Curriculum for Science (Key Stage 2) and Knowledge and Understanding of the World (Foundation Phase). These will be taught to all pupils. *(Parents are unable to withdraw pupils from such lessons).*

Foundation Phase

- *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 reproduce babies.*
- *To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and other pupils.*

Key Stage 2

- *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 SRE 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 SRE. 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 'A Journey in Love' programme, pupils in Year 6 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. During the class activity the class teacher will use the 'Sense' CD to introduce the lesson.

The School Nurse is invited to speak to Year 6 pupils about puberty, health and hygiene issues. During this session the children are taught in single sex groups and groups have same sex teacher / adult present to deal with any questions.

The school has these guidelines for these sessions and the use of videos and for any following discussions:

- The subject matter will be treated in a professional, caring, sensitive way.
- Both girls and boys groups will be given the same information.

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- There will be the correct use of language and terminology.
- Children will be given the opportunity to ask questions in a way that will not cause them embarrassment.
- All questions will be related to the subject matter covered in the video and will be answered honestly and sensitively.
- Individual children will have the opportunity to ask individual, or submit written, questions which will be answered confidentially on a one-to-one basis at the teacher's discretion.
- During the single sex group discussion, girls will be shown sanitary items and informed of the facilities available in school.
- If pupils ask questions which are not suitable to be answered in front of the whole group they will be considered later and, depending on the maturity of the individual, answered or referred to parents if appropriate.

Resources

We acknowledge that parents and guardians are the key persons for children learning about sex and relationships; the foremost educators. Our roles and our programme simply complement their role in nurturing their children's human wholesomeness. We use the resources 'A Journey in Love', recommended by the Archdiocese and the sense CD from the LEA.¹

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by subject leader, with support from the whole teaching staff based on their findings from implementing the lessons, and updated annually.

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| Headteacher: | <i>Tim Baxter</i> | Date: | 29/2/16 |
| Chair of Governing Body: | <i>Tim Pritchard</i> | Date: | 29/2/16 |

¹This disk has been agreed by the teaching staff and the Governing body.