



## **Education for Personal Relationships**

### **Mission Statement**

We believe that Our Lady & St Brendan's is a place where faith in God and the love of Jesus are reflected in our daily relationships.

### **Rationale**

**'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full'**  
(Jn.10.10)

Stemming from our vision of what it means to be human, we seek to educate the whole person: spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally, psychologically, and physically towards Christian maturity.

We acknowledge that PSHE and Citizenship as well as Sex and Relationship Education are all underpinned by a theology of relationship and so are all encompassed in the title 'Education for Personal Relationships'

We support the recommendation of the DfES to root SRE within the wider PSHE and Citizenship framework and to have an overall policy entitled 'Education for Personal Relationships'

In response to the exhortation of the Bishops of England and Wales we recognise our important role in Sex and Relationship Education.

We acknowledge the need to address issues raised by the actual experience of pupils today.

We seek to provide an environment where pupils are informed about relationships in the context of the Catholic faith.

### **Aims of EPR**

- ❖ To encourage pupils' growth in self respect, acknowledging we are all created in the 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.
- ❖ To help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships.
- ❖ 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:

RE and Science as well as other areas of the curriculum 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.

We also acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to EPR as the school, of its very nature operates through positive human relationships.

All staff realise the obligation to deliver EPR in their role as class teachers or support staff. Staff also recognise the need for close co – operation with each other and other subject areas in order to ensure an holistic approach to EPR.

We recognise that EPR requires sensitive teaching which is matched in particular by the specific needs and concerns of pupils.

Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in EPR and careful consideration will need to be given to the inevitable wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in the class.

All teachers involved in EPR are required to be sensitive, credible and consistent.

All pupils are given equal access to EPR, including Sex Education, within the curriculum.

***For an outline of content please see the diocesan framework or your own adapted version.***

***Appropriate teaching methods are also outlined in section 6 of 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' and section 7 deals with confidentiality.***

### **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.

### **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.'*(Bishops' Low Week Meeting 1994)*

The Governing body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishops' Conference. The Governors will always strive to ensure that:

- Parents are supported in their task.
- Parents are consulted and kept informed of the EPR Programme and its contents and any subsequent developments.

### **Child Withdrawal**

It is our hope that parents would wish pupils to be involved in the schools programme of sex and relationship education. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from this but not from those areas which are required by National Curriculum Science.

Parents with concerns are invited in the first instance, to arrange an appointment with the school to discuss these concerns and see if they can be resolved. If the matter remains unresolved, parents need to notify the Governors of their intention to withdraw their child from the sex education programme.

### **Co-ordination (see appendix 1)**

### **Assessment Recording and Reporting**

A record is kept in the teacher's planning of the delivery of EPR.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be monitored bi-annually\* by the EPR Co-ordinator and will be reviewed by the Governing Body on a bi-annual\* basis.  
Any change will be discussed with parents before being implemented.

Adopted by the Governing Body on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2012

Review date: March 2014