

St Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery



POLICY FOR SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

Our Mission

At St Mary's we will:-

- Enable each child to develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith, promote respect for religious and moral values and tolerance of other races and religions
- Foster the growth of each child's potential through the development of respect for self and others
- Promote the individual talents and abilities of pupils to ensure that each child fulfills his or her full potential.
- Promote an understanding and care of the environment in which each child finds him or herself.
- Promote a close and co-operative relationship between home, parish and school.

In our school community we live by the motto:-
SEQUERE MARIAM IN FIDE
Follow Mary in Faith

THE CHURCH teaches the importance of the link between holistic human development and education in sex and relationship. In this context sex and relationship education is not something to be fearful of but contributes to both pupils' personal development and the Common Good. At St. Mary's we uphold the importance of pupils learning to love faithfully, through their learning of God's love for them.

Our policy at St Mary's conveys the unity and coherence of the Church teaching on human sexuality and the dignity of life. We advocate that the Church's teaching is a "consistent ethic of life".

AIMS

- to believe that every human life has an intrinsic and absolute value through being created by God and in the image of God.
- to understand that the simple fact of existing is not dependent on an individual's age, abilities, social acceptability or any other characteristic.
- to have self-respect for each other and this must underlie all human relationships.

ORGANISATION/CURRICULAR PLANNING

Children in YEARS 5/6 will follow the ALL THAT I AM and THE ROAD AHEAD programmes during the summer term. Children will be taught by their teachers with the support of their teaching assistants, as a whole class and in separate gender groups depending upon the lesson's content and, most importantly, upon the maturity of the children.

The school nurse and her support depending will be involved depending upon the areas of study. The Contents of the two programmes can be found in the school's R.E. syllabus. Both programmes develop the PERSONAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL HEALTH and SPIRITUAL Education of the children.

The Mission Statement of St. Mary's is acknowledged and included in this area of the curriculum.

LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGIES.

The children at St. Mary's will be taught in accordance with the school's Teaching and Learning Policy, where teaching observes the need for children to hear OPEN questions and that they be allowed to explore what they are learning.

The children's education is empowering and we realise that it is important to find out about children's learning (contracting) and to observe confidentiality between the child and their teacher. The value of each other is paramount and communication skills will develop. At St. Mary's relationships based on trust will materialise, self-esteem will grow and children will learn to manage their emotions. The school's Child Protection Policy has a particular relevance in this area of the curriculum.

The KEY SKILLS of Literacy, Numeracy and ICT are contained in the children's learning.

The children's learning will be assessed using diagnostic assessment and following the guidelines as set out in the school's ASSESSMENT Policy.

HOMEWORK, at the discretion of the teacher, will be set in accordance with the school's Homework Policy. Pupils will take the work completed in school home at the end of the year.

All children in Year 5 and Year 6 will follow the programme, unless their parents choose for them not to, but they will all follow, without exception, their Science syllabus which will contain references to the programme. Children will be taught in accordance with the school's INCLUSION and EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES Policy.

At St Mary's we respect the parents as the first teachers of the children and maintain good communications. The involvement of the children's PARENTS is paramount and is maintained by St. Mary's School throughout the programme. They are informed about the delivery of the programme and their rights (previously mentioned). Parents are invited to attend a meeting and talk to the class teacher about the programme and look at the materials contained within it. At St. Mary's we are aware of the need to:

- listen to parents
- reassure parents
- allow the parents access to materials
- build confidence
- model a response

We feel that it is very important that parents realise that the children are taught in the ways of their faith. We promote and pioneer the partnership that needs to exist between SCHOOL, PARISH and COMMUNITY.

The Head Teacher is responsible for MONITORING the programme in consultation with all staff involved. EVALUATION is ongoing in line with the school's policy for Teaching and Learning.

Signed:

Mrs B Corbett
Executive Headteacher

Date: October 2017

Signed:

Mrs A Geoghegan
Chair of ARC

Date: October 2017

To be reviewed: October 2019