



**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary
School, Leigh**

Love Jesus

Love Learning

Love Life

"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full."

Relationships & Sex Education Policy

Governor responsible: Fr. C Fealey

Last reviewed: Autumn 2015

Mission Statement

*Love Jesus
Love Learning
Love Life*

Rationale

‘I have come so 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, emotionally, morally, 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’.

“Education in sexuality” is but part of education in relationships. Consequently, each young person is entitled to experience a school climate in which the quality of relationships between staff and pupils, between the pupils themselves, is marked by honesty, personal identification, warmth, trust and security.

(Education in Sexuality, C.E.S. 1994 page 9).

We support the recommendation of the DfES to root SRE within the wider PHSE 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 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 ensure pupils that pupils protect themselves and ask for help and support when needed.
- To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty.
- To offer sex education in the wider context of relationships.
- 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:

Religious Education and Science as well as other areas of the curriculum by way of a Learning Challenge approach.

All elements of PSHE and Citizenship are covered.

The exception to an integrated approach is a programme entitled 'All That I Am' which is recommended by the Archdiocese. This is aimed specifically at Years 5 and 6 and is delivered by the class teachers over a number of weeks in the Spring term. The programme focuses on the personal, social and spiritual education of our children in these year groups and places great emphasis on the uniqueness of each individual.

Other PSHE and Citizenship Events include:

- Citizens Against Bullying (CAB)
- Let The Children Speak
- Friendship Week

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 to ensure a

holistic approach to EPR.

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

Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in EPR and careful consideration will be given to the 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 within the curriculum.

For an outline of content please see the recommended diocesan framework.

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 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 (which is an aspect of EPR). Provision for parental consultation was provided at an EPR Evening, held in school on 8th November, 2005 at which parents were fully informed of the content and delivery of the EPR programme and their views (expressed both verbally and through the completion of a questionnaire) taken into account. However, we recognise parents have a right to withdraw their children from this aspect but not from areas that 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.

Role of Co-ordinator (see appendix 1 in diocesan guidelines).

Assessment Recording and Reporting

A record is kept in the teacher's planning of the delivery of EPR. Reporting is carried out in the Head teacher's report to the Governor's.

Monitoring and Reviewing

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.