

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



## Education for Personal Relationships (EPR) policy

### **Mission Statement**

At St Joseph's we welcome all  
as members of our school family.  
We learn and care for each other as brothers and sisters;  
enriched by the teachings of Jesus.

We encourage creativity;  
valuing our unique talents and skills as gifts from God.  
Working alongside pupils and parents/carers,  
we can all succeed and realise great things.

Serving the communities within the Parish of St Joseph's and  
St John the Baptist and beyond,  
we reach out to all.

We respect each other, our different cultures and faiths;  
celebrating our richness and diversity.

Through worship and prayer we show our love; striving to  
achieve our very best.

*This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:  
Relationships Sex Education, Drugs awareness, No smoking, Medicines and First Aid, and Science.*

## **Rationale**

At St Joseph's Catholic School, we believe that education is about the growth and development of the whole child. We aim to develop a child intellectually, morally, spiritually, emotionally, psychologically and physically and so lead him or her to Christian maturity, human wholeness and flourishing. We acknowledge the uniqueness of each child, created and loved by God, and deserving respect and dignity. Each child has a valuable contribution to make to the life of the school and community. The values of love, peace and justice are central to all we seek to achieve. God's love and the importance of relationships underpin the EPR curriculum. We build on the foundations already established at home where parents\*\* are the first educators of their children.

School plays an important part in preparing young people for the responsibilities, opportunities and challenges that life in a modern, diverse democracy. Our school community is a reflection of this and we encourage genuine responsibility and participation for our pupils.

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

### The 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, emotions 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 know how to ask for help and support when needed.
- To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty.
- To help pupils develop healthy and safe lifestyles.
- 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 of God.

All staff recognise that they have an obligation in their various roles to contribute to EPR.

EPR requires sensitive teaching with pupil activities, discussions and support materials being well matched to the age and level of understanding, needs and concerns of the pupils.

The school's SRE\* policy sets out guidelines for dealing with questions of a sensitive nature in relation to sex and relationship education and identifies the specific content to be taught.

The Diocesan framework and related mapping documents are used so that EPR is delivered through a planned curriculum to ensure progression and continuity. The framework takes account of specific areas of Catholic teaching, ethos and progression through the liturgical year.

EPR is delivered through:

- General ethos of the school as witnessed by the pupils and underpinned by school policies
- The Religious Education programme
- Discrete teaching time and/or specific 'blocked' time for certain aspects of the programme
- Making cross curricular links with science, history etc
- The use of CAFOD, SEAL and other resource materials where appropriate and relevant
- Developing a learning climate which enables a response to opportunities that arise e.g. personal experiences, school, local, national and international events.

- Developing opportunities for charity support and involvement
- Work towards the School of Sanctuary Award.

### Responsibilities

The governors, and especially the Foundation Governors, are responsible for ensuring that the EPR programme follows Diocesan guidelines and is in keeping with the Church's teachings.

In all matters related to EPR and especially Relationship and Sex Education governors will ensure that parents are consulted on the contents of the programme and given an opportunity to view resources.

The EPR coordinators (Alex Matthews and Jess Clark) are responsible for ensuring the effective delivery of the EPR programme, which is well planned and appropriately matched to age and levels of understanding and in keeping with the Catholic ethos of the school.

### **Footnote:**

\* Renamed as RSE (Relationship and Sex Education)

\*\*Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines 'parent' as:

- All natural parents, whether they are married or not
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person
- Any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person (having care of a child or young person means that the child lives with and is looked after by that person, irrespective of what their relationship is).