

Document Control			
Policy Name	Sex and Relationship Education	Date Approved	19 th July 2016
Status	Approved by Board	Review Date	Summer 2018
Committee	Pupil Achievement	Version Number	2.0

Sex and Relationship Education Policy English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

“Working together to provide the very best in Catholic Education”

“There is a variety of gifts but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God who gives ability to all for their particular service. The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.” 1 Corinthians 12: 4 - 7

Statement of Belief

Christ’s command ‘Love one another as I have loved you’, is the key and foundation for human and spiritual fulfilment and happiness. As human beings created body and spirit, our whole personality is shaped by our sexuality. ‘Male and female he made them, in his own image he made them’. Sex and relationships education, therefore, is a fundamental entitlement of our children and young people and the family is the central context in which this education takes place. Our education system guarantees parents rights to withdraw their children from school sex education and as Catholics we must see this as a fundamental plan of our school sex education. It can only be successful when it grows out parental support and in turn supports parents in their critical role. We believe that ‘God saw all that he had made and found it very good’ and that includes our bodies and our sexuality, in its widest sense is his gift to us. In growing up, children and young people gradually experience and become fully aware of themselves. As a Catholic community, we want to support their personal and spiritual development by offering them a mature and well rounded approach to the difficult questions that they face with regard to the appropriate expression of their love for others. The unconditional loving intimacy of husband and wife are the model that Christ proposed and we bear witness to his teaching, while being able to understand that in our society and among our young people, different models and approaches may often arise and raise difficult questions. We offer a listening ear, a warm hearted approach and a faith that inspires us to see in our humanity the place where God reveals his love.

Introduction

The Governing Body believes that Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is an essential part of a holistic education since its focus is the individual, uniquely created by God in His own image. Through SRE children come to understand more about themselves, others and the beauty of Creation.

Aims and Rationale

Our approach to SRE will be a positive one because:

- Sexuality is a gift from God.
- We are made to love and be loved.
- What we say with our bodies should reflect what we mean in our hearts and minds.

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- Mature Christian sexuality involves openness and commitment to others.
- Genuine love is creative.

We affirm that human sexuality is an essential dimension of personal identity as it forms a fundamental part of God's gift of Life. We offer a profound understanding of the joy and depth of human sexual relationships.

"In his own image he made them, male and female he made them...God saw all that he had made and found it very good."

Aims

- To develop in pupils a sense of their own self-worth and uniqueness as created by God.
- To help pupils to come to a deeper understanding about themselves as they grow.
- To provide pupils with accurate, factual information about the reproductive process according to age, experience and level of understanding.
- To teach pupils to respect their own and each other's bodies.
- To teach pupils about the importance of love and respect in relation to all relationships and *especially* sexual relationships and to set this in the context of family life and marriage.
- To teach pupils about responsibility for oneself and others.
- To develop an understanding about the importance of parenting skills.
- To develop an awareness of the importance of emotions, feelings, instinct and right judgement in relation to self protection.
- To present fact in an objective and balanced manner and to use appropriate terminology to enable pupils to discuss issues without embarrassment or fear.
- To provide a supportive environment for SRE to take place where questions can be asked and honestly answered.

Methodology

We intend that the school's SRE policy and programme shall be delivered in conjunction with the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Religious Education programmes and also in accordance with the principles set down in other relevant school's policies such as, Equal Opportunities, Child Welfare and Inclusion.

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At Year 6 children will be taught in more depth about puberty and the physical and emotional changes that arise because of it. A separate lesson will be set aside for this topic in which it may be appropriate to split pupils into gender groups. It may also be appropriate to invite the school nurse to speak to children about certain pertinent issues at this time.

Aspects of SRE will be covered as part of the statutory element of the Science National Curriculum.

Dealing with sensitive issues and responding to questions

Teachers will answer questions honestly but with due regard given to the nature of the question and the age and maturity of the questioner.

In some cases it may be inappropriate for the teacher to respond to a specific question and the pupil will be referred to his/her parents. In the same way not all questions will be answered publicly and the teacher will need to assess the appropriateness of the question to consider if it matches the maturity and understanding of the whole class group.

Teachers should never feel pressured into discussing their personal views or experiences and should always respect the sensitivity of their position as a teacher in a Catholic school.

Working with Parents

The Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their child from any or all of the schools Sex Education programme although certain elements are covered under the Science National Curriculum which is the entitlement of all children. The school recognises that good communication is vital in this area and parents are invited to review the schools policy and ideally view all the materials used beforehand.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governors

In accordance with the Education Act of 1993 the governing body will keep up to date the school's policy for SRE, in consultation with parents and will make copies available to them. They will make known to parents their right to withdraw their children from all or part of SRE provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum.

Teachers

All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guidance of the physical, moral spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach SRE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available to all staff teaching SRE.

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Parents

The school recognises that parents are the primary educators of their children and will seek to support them in their task. It will ensure that parents are kept informed of what is happening in SRE in terms of content, delivery and timing.

Equality of Opportunity

In light of the 2010 Equality Act, this policy has been written with due consideration to its potential impact (both positive and negative) on the many diverse groups of adults and children within the school. The school has ensured that to the best of its knowledge, the statements and procedures set out in this policy do not discriminate unjustly against any such groups or individuals.

Approved by governing body on 19th July 2016

Signed by:.....Chair of Governors

Review: Every 2 years