



St Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Relationship and Sex Education Policy (RSE)

Date last reviewed	January 2018
Reviewed by	Governing Body
Date of next review	January 2020



Relationship and Sex Education Policy (RSE)

Loving for life

The title reflects our view that Catholic education has something important to say about Relationship and Sex Education. 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'. Relationship and sex 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 plank of our school sex education. It can only be successful when it grows out of 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, this 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.



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Introduction

The Governing Body believes that Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is an essential part of a holistic education since its focus is the individual, uniquely created by God in His own image. Through RSE children come to understand more about themselves, others and the beauty of Creation *which supports parents in their key role as teachers in this.*

RSE is presented in the context of Gospel values and the Church's teaching on morality. In response to the exhortation of the Bishops of England and Wales we recognise the importance in Sex and Relationship Education. (RSE.)

The Catholic Faith has a distinctive understanding of the human person, of true relationships and of the nature of community. This understanding should be reflected in the way a Catholic school forms its policy and enables its young people to grow up sharing the experience of belonging to a community with Gospel values.

Bishops' conference 1987/94.

Aims and Rationale

Our approach to RSE is 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.
- 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.



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- 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 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 ensure that pupils are ready for puberty.
- 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 RSE to take place where questions can be asked
- 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.

Methodology

St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School RSE policy and programme shall be delivered in the wider context of the school's Education for Personal Relationships (EPR) programme (Primary) / Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Religious Education programme (The Way, the Truth and the Light)

Aspects of PSHE will be covered as part of the statutory element of the Science National Curriculum. Alongside these, we are going to use A Journey in Love as an additional resource for the delivery of Education for Personal Relationships, in particular, sex education from a whole school approach. The RE co-ordinator and Headteacher using A Journey in Love, have created a whole school scheme of work.

We 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. The staff also recognise the need for close co-operation with each other and other areas in order to ensure a holistic approach to EPR.



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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 St. Benedict's Catholic School.

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 RSE, 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 RSE 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 and spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach RSE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available to all staff teaching RSE.

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 parents may require some help and support in this task both from schools and parishes. (Bishops' Low week meeting 1994).



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The Governing Body of St. Benedict's School 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.

Working with Parents

The school recognises that good communication is vital in this area and parents are invited to review the school's policy and view all the materials used beforehand.

Parents are the first and best educators of their children and it is our hope that parents would wish pupils to be involved in the school's programme of Relationship and Sex Education. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from this but not from areas which are required by the National Science Curriculum.

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 Governors of their intention to withdraw their child from the sex education programme.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The governors of St. Benedict's approve this policy March 2018
The policy will be reviewed as required with Diocesan advice.