

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

“As a loving family, we learn and grow together on a journey with Jesus.”

1. Introduction

In this policy the governors and teachers, in partnership with parents, set out their intentions about Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). We set out our rationale for and our approach to relationships and sex education in the school. Implementation of the policy will take place after consultation with the governors in the Summer term of 2017. This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the Headteacher, Governing Body and staff. Copies of the document will be available from the school office and on the school website. Details of the content of the RSE curriculum will also be published on the school’s website.

2. Rationale

‘I have come that you might have life and have it to the full’

(Jn.10.10)

We acknowledge that Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship, as well as Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), are all underpinned by a theology of relationship and are all encompassed in the title ‘Relationships and Sex Education’ (RSE).

Our belief in the unique dignity of the human person as made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in our school. Our approach to relationship and sex education therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church’s teaching of the human person and is presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

At the heart of the Christian life is the Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in loving relationship and embracing all people and creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are all made in the image and likeness of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God’s gift. RSE, therefore, will be placed firmly within the context of relationship as it is there that sexuality grows and develops.

Following guidance from our own Bishop and Diocese, the Conference of Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE, all relationship and sex education in our school will be firmly embedded in the Personal and Social Health Education (PSHE) framework as it is concerned primarily with nurturing human wholeness and is integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of our pupils.

All relationship and sex education will be in accordance with the Church’s moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from and support will be provided to help pupils deal with different sets of values. Our programme will promote those virtues which are essential in responding to God’s call to love others with a proper respect for their dignity.

3.Aims of Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

- To encourage pupils' growth in self respect, acknowledging we are all created in the image and 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 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 know how to keep themselves safe and ask for help and support when needed.
- To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty.
- 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.

4. The Governing Body

The Governing body and Foundation Governors in particular recognise their responsibility to ensure the RSE programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church's teaching.

5. 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.

The Governing body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishops' Conference and will always ensure that:

- Parents are supported in their task.
- Parents are consulted and kept informed of the RSE Programme; its contents, evaluation and review and any subsequent developments.

We will support parents by:

- sharing the content of our curriculum in Years 5 and 6 before delivery to the children.
- Notifying them by letter and/or email when sensitive aspects of RSE will be taught.
- Notifying them of their right to withdraw their child from parts of the RSE curriculum.
- Providing material to share with their children if they are withdrawn.

6. Right of Withdrawal

It is our hope that parents would wish their children to be involved in the school's positive and prudent programme of relationship and sex education, following annual consultation regarding the school's approach. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from such lessons (not included in National Curriculum Science) after discussion with the headteacher.

7. Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught through our Catholic ethos in school and through the subjects of Religious Education, Science and by way of a cross-curricular, integrated approach. Teachers will be expected to teach RSE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school. Appropriate support will be made available to all staff teaching RSE. All staff have been included in the development of this policy and all staff should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them.

All elements of PSHE and Citizenship, whilst non-statutory at Key Stage 1 and 2, are covered. Significant aspects of sex and relationship education remain part of the National Curriculum for Science. These will be taught to all pupils. *(Parents are unable to withdraw pupils from such lessons.)*

Key Stage 1 (5-7)

- *That humans move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce;*
- *To name the main external parts of the body;*
- *That humans grow from babies into children and then into adults, and that adults can produce babies;*
- *To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and other pupils.*

Key Stage 2 (7 – 11)

- *That the life processes common to humans and all animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction*
- *The main stages of the human life cycle.*

We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to RSE as the school, of its very nature operates through positive human relationships. We recognise, value and greatly appreciate the contribution made by all members of staff in deepening the quality of our Christian community.

Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in RSE. Careful consideration will be given to the wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in their care.

While we operate a whole school approach to Relationship and Sex education through our RSE Programme, pupils in Year 5 will learn about the emotional and the physical changes of puberty. For this particular part of the curriculum, children will be taught as a year group.

8. Children's Questions and Safeguarding Procedures

There will always be sensitive or controversial issues in the field of RSE. The use of ground rules will help to create a supportive climate for discussion. Some questions may raise issues which it would not be appropriate to answer during ordinary class time e.g. where a child's questions hints at

abuse, is deliberately provocative or are of a personal nature. The school has procedures to deal with any sensitive issues or children thought to be vulnerable. Staff will pass on any concerns of this nature to the designated child protection officer in school.

9. Resources

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the key persons for children learning about relationships and sex; the foremost educators. Our role and our programme simply complement their role in nurturing their children's human wholeness. However, the role of parents and our day to day interactions in school are currently supported by the following curriculum resources:

A Journey in Love by McCrimmons

10. Assessment, Recording and Reporting

A record is kept in teacher's planning of the delivery of RSE. The programme is monitored and evaluated by the co-ordinator in accordance with the school's monitoring and evaluation processes. Pupils are given the opportunity for self evaluation at an appropriate level for each year group. Reporting is made in individual pupil's reports under 'Other Subjects'.

11. Outside Agencies

The expertise of outside agencies will be used appropriately *to support* but not at the expense of the school's delivery. Any outside agencies will be used at the Headteacher's discretion.

12. Curriculum Continuity

The school has an ongoing dialogue with the PSHE Co-ordinator to ensure RSE, RE, Spiritual, Moral and PSHE policies complement each other as appropriate.

13. Monitoring and Review

The RSE co-ordinator, with the headteacher, has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RSE and the provision of in-service training. The programme will be taught by the class teacher. This policy will be monitored annually by the RSE Co-ordinator and will be reviewed bi-annually by the Governing Body. Governors remain ultimately responsible for the policy. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.

This policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School. It will be reviewed by the Governors and headteacher in conjunction with all the staff two years from the date below.

Signed..... (Chair of Governors)

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