

Relationship and Sex Education Policy for St. Jude's Catholic Primary School

We live, love and learn together in Jesus' name.

In this policy the Governors and teachers, in partnership with pupils and their parents, set out their intentions about relationships and sex education (RSE). We set out our rationale for, and approach to relationships and sex education in the school.

Consultation

Due to the COVID: 19 pandemic, consultation was delayed to Autumn 2020. Consultation took place once all parties have been made aware of the statutory guidance ahead of changes being made to the RHE provision at our school and will include:

- review of RSE curriculum content with staff
- consultation with parents
- consultation with school governors

Implementation and Review of Policy

Governors were consulted about this policy in the Summer term of 2020 and again in Autumn 2021. Parents were consulted in Autumn 2020 and their views were sought.

Dissemination

The draft policy will be given to all members of the Governing Body, and once agreed shared with all teaching and non-teaching members of staff, copies of the document will be available to all parents via the school's website (alongside details of the required content of the RSE Curriculum). Copies will also be available from the school office.

Defining Relationship and Sex Education

The DfE guidance states: "Children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way." It is about the development of the pupil's knowledge and understanding of themselves as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. In primary schools the focus should be on "teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults." This would include the topics of families and the people of who care for me, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe."

Statutory Curriculum Requirements

We are legally required to teach those aspects of RHE which are statutory parts of National Curriculum for Science. However, the reasons for our inclusion of RSE go further.

'I HAVE COME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL' (John 10:10)

We are delivering relationships and sex education precisely because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person. The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Our approach to RSE, therefore, is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God's gift, reflect God's beauty, and share in the divine creativity. RSE, therefore, will be placed firmly within the context of relationships, as it is there that sexuality grows and develops.

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE (and the Welsh Assembly Government) RSE will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils. It is centred on Christ's vision of being human as good news. It will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

All RSE 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. It will also prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

Values and Virtues

Our programme enshrines Catholic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life. It also promotes those virtues which are essential in responding to God's call to love others with a proper respect for their dignity and the dignity of the human body. The following virtues will be explicitly explored and promoted both in RE and RSE lessons: faithfulness, fruitfulness, chastity, integrity, prudence, mercy and compassion.

AIM OF RSE AND THE MISSION STATEMENT

Our School Mission commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural, emotional education) and we believe that RSE is an integral element of this education. Furthermore, we will endeavour to raise pupils' self-esteem, help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes. It is in this context that we commit ourselves: In partnership with parents, to provide children and young people with a "positive and prudent sexual education" which is compatible with their physical, cognitive, psychological, and spiritual maturity, and rooted in a Catholic vision of education and the human person

Our intentions

Objectives

To develop the following attitudes and virtues:

- reverence for the gift of human sexuality and fertility;
- respect for the dignity of every human being – in their own person and in the person of others;
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures;
- responsibility for their own actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others;
- celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life;
- fidelity in relationships.

To develop the following personal and social skills:

- making sound judgements and good choices which have integrity and which are respectful of the individual's commitments;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying;
- managing emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, with confidence, sensitivity and dignity;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy and compassion, learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures, recognising the influence and impact of the media, internet and peer groups and so developing the ability to assess pressures and respond appropriately;
- being patient, delaying gratification and learning to recognise the appropriate stages in the development of relationships, and how to love chastely;
- assessing risks and managing behaviours in order to minimise the risk to health and personal integrity.

To know and understand:

- the Church's teaching on relationships and the nature and meaning of sexual love;
- the Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;
- the facts about human reproduction, how love is expressed sexually and how sexual love plays an essential and sacred role in procreation;

Outcomes

Inclusion and Differentiated Learning

We will ensure RSE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances (for example their own

sexual orientation, faith or culture) and is taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help.

Equalities Obligations

The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, pregnancy, maternity, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

Broad Content of RSE

At St Judes Catholic Primary School we will use Ten Ten Resources for Catholic primary schools.

Ten Ten's new programme for Catholic primary schools, **Life to the Full**, will teach Relationships Education and Health Education within the context of a Christian understanding of human sexuality rooted in the wisdom and teaching of the Catholic Church.

Given that RSE will become a statutory subject for all schools from September 2020, we are embracing "the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life" by giving pupils knowledge "that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships." (DFE Statutory Guidance).

We will deliver this teaching through the prism of Catholic RSE. The framework of our programme is taken from the Model Catholic RSE Programme by the Catholic Education Service, which has been highlighted by the Department of Education as a work of good practice.

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Parents and carers

We recognise that parents (and other carers who stand in their place) are the primary educators of their children. As a Catholic school, we provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children. Therefore the school will support parents and carers by providing material to be shared with their children at home and workshops to help parents/carers to find out more about the curriculum content. The governing will regularly review the policy. Parents have been consulted during the development of the RSE programme, and will be during the process of monitoring, review and evaluation. They will be able to view the resources used by the school in the RSE

programme. Our aim is that, at the end of the consultation process, every parent and carer will have full confidence in the school's RSE programme to meet their child's needs. (Parents were informed about the consultation period on October 9th 2020. They were given access to the resources that we would be using at St. Jude's and responses were sought. No written responses were received by school.) Parents/carers will also be informed by letter when the more sensitive aspects of RSE will be covered in order that they can be prepared to talk with their child and answer questions about their children's learning.

There is no right to withdraw from RSE at primary school, as the DfE believe the contents of these subjects – such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety) – are important for all children to be taught. Parents only have the **right to withdraw** their children from Sex Education - **except** where those elements which are required by the National Curriculum for Science. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to notify the school by contacting the Headteacher. We believe that the controlled environment of the classroom is the safest place for this curriculum to be followed.

Balanced Curriculum

Whilst promoting Catholic Gospel values and virtues, teaching in accordance with Church, we will ensure that pupils are offered a balanced education by providing an RSE programme that offers a range of viewpoints on issues. Pupils will also receive clear scientific information as well as covering the aspects of the law pertaining to RSE. Knowing about facts and enabling young people to explore differing viewpoints is not the same as promoting behaviour and is not incompatible with our school's promotion of Catholic teaching. We will ensure that pupils have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.

Responsibility for Teaching the Curriculum

All staff will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspect of the RSE programme. They will be role models for pupils, demonstrating good, healthy, wholesome relationships with staff, other adults and pupils. They will also be contributing to the development of pupils' personal and social skills.

External Visitors

Our school will call upon help and guidance from outside agencies and health specialists to deliver aspects of RSE whenever possible. Such visits will always complement the current programme and never substitute or replace teacher led sessions. It is important that any external visitor is clear about their role and responsibility whilst they are in school delivering a session. Health professionals should follow the school's policies, minimising the potential for disclosures or inappropriate comments using negotiated ground rules and distancing techniques as other teachers would. They will ensure that all teaching is rooted in Catholic principles and practice.

Other Roles and Responsibilities regarding RSE

Governors:

- draw up the RSE policy, and consult with parents and teachers
- ensure that the policy is available to parents
- ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies, e.g., SEN, the ethos of the school and our Christian beliefs
- ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children
- establish a possible link governor to share in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, including resources used
- ensure that the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum Science topics and the setting of RSE within PSHE

Head teacher:

The Head teacher takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, the Diocesan Education Service and the Local Education Authority, in addition to other appropriate agencies.

RSE Lead Teacher:

RSE will be led by Mrs Cleaver & Mrs Carrington who, alongside the Headteacher, have a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy. They will take the lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RSE and the provision of in-service training. They may be supported by the curriculum lead and the member of staff with responsibility for child protection.

All Staff:

RSE is a whole school matter: All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress, they should actively contribute to the guardianship and 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 for all staff teaching RSE. All staff should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them.

Relationship to Other Policies and Curriculum Subjects.

This RSE policy is to be delivered as part of the PSHE framework. It includes guidelines about pupil safety and is compatible with the school's other policy documents (for example, Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding Policy etc). Pupils with particular difficulties, whether of a physical or intellectual nature, will receive appropriately differentiated support in order to enable them to develop mature knowledge, understanding and skills. Teaching methods will be adapted to meet the varying needs of this group of pupils. Learning about RSE in PSHE sessions will link to/complement learning in those areas identified in the RSE audit.

Children's Questions

The governors want to promote a healthy, positive atmosphere in which RSE can take place. They want to ensure that pupils can ask questions freely, be confident that their questions will be answered, and be sure that they will be free from bullying or harassment from other children and young people.

Controversial or Sensitive Issues

There will always be sensitive or controversial issues in the field of RSE. There may be issues due to immaturity, experiences of the children, disagreement with the official teaching of the Church, illegal activity or other doubtful, dubious or harmful activity. The governors believe that children are best educated, protected from harm and exploitation, by discussing such issues openly within the context of the RSE programme. The use of ground rules, negotiated between teachers and pupils, will help to create a supportive climate for discussion. Some questions may raise issues that it would not be appropriate for teachers to answer during ordinary class time, e.g. where a child or young person's questions hints at abuse, is deliberately tendentious or the question is of a personal nature.

Supporting Children and Young People Who Are At Risk

Children will also need to feel safe and secure in the environment in which RSE takes place. Effective RSE will provide opportunities for discussion of what is and is not appropriate in relationships. Such discussion may well lead to disclosure of a safeguarding issue. Teachers will need to be aware of the needs of their pupils and not let any fears and worries go unnoticed. Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is a victim of or is at risk of abuse they are required to follow the school's safeguarding policy and immediately inform a designated safeguarding lead.

Confidentiality and Advice

All governors, all teachers, all support staff, all parents and all pupils must be made aware of this policy, particularly as it relates to issues of advice and confidentiality. All lessons, especially those in the RSE programme, will have the best interests of pupils at heart, enabling them to grow in knowledge and understanding of relationships and sex, developing appropriate personal and social skills and becoming appreciative of the values and attitudes which underpin the Christian understanding of what it means to be fully human. Pupils will be encouraged to talk to their parents/carers about the issues which are discussed in the programme. Teachers will always help pupils facing personal difficulties, in line with the school's pastoral care procedures. Teachers should explain to pupils that they cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, in matters which are illegal or abusive for instance. Teachers will explain that in such circumstance they would have to inform others, e.g. parents, Head teacher, but that the pupils would always be informed first that such action was going to be taken.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Lead Teachers will monitor the provision of the various dimensions of the programme by examining plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils work at regular intervals. The programme will be evaluated annually by means of questionnaires/ response sheets / assessment given to pupils, and/or by discussion with pupils, staff and parents. The results of the evaluation should be reported to these groups of interested parties and their suggestions sought for improvements. Governors will consider all such evaluations and suggestions and Governors remain ultimately responsible for the policy.