



St. Jude's Catholic Primary School

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

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Our policy at St Jude's Catholic Primary School is firmly centred on our mission, values and beliefs as a Catholic school. We recognise that Sex and Relationships Education is a shared responsibility between home and school. Teaching and learning in this subject will be done with sensitivity, will be appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils, and will reflect the teaching of the Catholic Church.

Background and Rationale

Our school's policy on relationship sex and education is based on the DFE document 'Sex and Relationship Education Guidance' (DfES 0116/2000).

In the DFE document, sex and relationship education is defined as 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development'. The guidance states, 'It is about understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality, and sexual health'.

Relationship and Sex Education is part of the personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum in our school. When we inform our pupils through sex and relationship education about sexual issues, we do this with regard to morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

Context

We teach about relationships and sex education in the context of the school's aims and values. While relationship and sex education in our school means that we give children information about this, we do this with an awareness of the morals and values which underpin all our work as a Catholic school.

In particular, we teach about relationships and sex in the belief that:

- relationship and sex education should be taught about in the context of marriage and family life in line with our Catholic beliefs
- relationship and sex education is part of a wider process of social, personal, spiritual and moral education
- children should be taught to have respect for their own bodies

- children should learn about their responsibilities to others, and be aware of the consequences of sexual activity
- it is important to build positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect
- children need to learn the importance of self-control

Aims and objectives

Within a Catholic context, the aims of sex and relationship education at St. Jude's are:

- to enable growth in self-respect and self-worth recognising that we are children of God, made in His image and likeness
- to appreciate and understand the role of God our Father as creator
- to enable pupils to have an understanding that love, trust and respect is central to relationships
- to promote an appreciation of the nature, purpose and value of marriage and the family
- to enable pupils to have an understanding of themselves and their physical and emotional development
- to enable pupils to reflect on and recognise the qualities that help them to grow, develop and sustain positive relationships

Curriculum

We teach children about:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults
- the way humans reproduce and the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term, and loving relationship
- respect for their own bodies
- the importance of family life
- moral questions
- relationship issues
- respect for the views of other people

We teach about relationships and sex through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main elements via Life to the Full Plus, a dedicated PHSE and SRE scheme of work, we also do some sex and relationship education through other subject areas (for example, science and PE) which we believe contribute significantly to children's knowledge and understanding of their own bodies, and how they are changing and developing. We also do a great deal of work on relationships through RE which teaches the children about love and relationships through the gospels and reflection on the life of Jesus.

We teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues around how people live and work together as a family and as a local, national and global community. We teach

about responsibility for one's own actions and how we can contribute and make a difference to the world in which we live.

We encourage all the children to:

- Develop confidence in talking
- Listen carefully to the views of others
- Think about and discuss feelings, naming emotions
- Develop self-esteem and assertiveness
- Develop their ability to make friends and co-operate with others

In Science lessons, in both key stages, we ensure that we follow the national curriculum content for science. In Key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the fact that people are not all the same, and that we need to respect each other. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes, and the main stages of the human life cycle, in greater depth.

By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are conceived, develop and are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children.

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.

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils have equal access to the SRE curriculum, regardless of their special educational needs or disabilities but appropriate to their emotional and cognitive development.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's sex education lies with parents and carers. We therefore wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

To promote this objective we:

- inform parents about the school's sex and relationship education policy and practice; information is sent out to all families allowing them to access the Ten Ten platform.
- answer any questions that parents may have about the sex and relationship education of their child

- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about the arrangements for sex and relationship education in the school

We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing bodies and their increasing responsibilities.

The role of other members of the community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with regard to health education. In particular, members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, give us valuable support with our sex and relationship education programme.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct sex and relationship education lessons in a sensitive manner, and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved (or being likely to be involved) in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference seriously, and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they may have been a victim of abuse. They will not try to investigate, but will immediately inform a school Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The role of the headteacher

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our sex and relationship education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach about sex and relationships effectively, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The headteacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school sex and relationship education programme, and ensures that all adults who work with our children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and work within its framework.

The headteacher monitors this policy on a regular basis, and reports to governors on the effectiveness of the policy.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be monitored and reviewed every two years.

Review date: March 2027