

St John's Catholic Primary School



RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION POLICY

“Christ is the Centre of our School Community where we live, love and learn together”

St. John's Catholic Primary School has 465 pupils on role. The majority of pupils come from the Kirkdale area of the city. The school is a Roman Catholic school and the vast majority of pupils are from Catholic families. Our policies and teaching must reflect the values and teachings of the Catholic Church, and our own Archdiocesan guidelines.

The Relationship and Sex Education programme will contribute to the requirements of Section 1 of the 1988 Education Reform Act and will promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils.

This policy sets out the approach to Relationships, Sex and Health Education at St. John's Primary School, in line with National and Local guidelines, but also in accordance with our own Mission Statement:

“Christ is the centre of our school community where we live, love and learn together.”

Respect for life, love and knowledge is part of our sacred trust to develop the dignity of every child and ensure 'Every Child Matters'.

Rationale

‘I HAVE COME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL’
(Jn.10.10)

We are involved in Relationship, Sex and Education (RSE) 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.

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 all creation. 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 relationship 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/RSHE 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 and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

All Relationship, Sex and Health Education RSHE 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.

Aims

At St. John's Catholic Primary School we aim to provide our children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle and develop to their full potential. Our Relationship and Sex Education programme teaches children about respectful relationships, care and consideration for themselves and others, personal hygiene, parts of the body, puberty and change. The programme will provide a foundation for further development in secondary school.

Relationship and Sex Education will be:

- Appropriate to the age and stage of development of the individual.
- Taught with sensitivity and sympathy towards individual, personal and family circumstances in order to avoid any hurt or distress.

St John's Catholic Primary School aims to provide a suitable programme that follows the statutory need to include RSHE into their curriculum from September 2020 which meets the ethos of its Catholic identity and mission.

The purpose of this Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) policy is to set out the ways in which the school's provision supports pupils through their spiritual, moral, social, emotional and physical development, and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life growing up in today's world.

Our School's mission embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children and young people, and through an agreed approach to Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) using the Archdiocesan recommended resource 'Journey In' Love 2020 we believe that we can promote the development of the whole child, so that children can grow in *virtue, wisdom and stature*, understanding both the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing spiritually, as well as moral aspects of relationships within a context of a Christian vision for the purpose of life.

The other aspects of the statutory curriculum intent will be met by the Archdiocese Come and See curriculum, the primary Science curriculum and the DFE statutory relationships guidance for PSHE.

Objectives

The objectives of our Relationship, Sex and Health Education programme at St John's Catholic Primary School are:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
- Help pupils develop feelings of dignity, self-worth, self-respect, confidence and empathy.

- Prepare pupils for puberty and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.

Statutory Requirements

At St John's Catholic Primary School, we must provide Relationships Education to all pupils as per section 34 of the Children and Social work act 2017.

In teaching Relationship and Sex Education, we must have regard to Catholic Education Service guidance issued by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales 2017.

The statutory guidance from the Department for Education issued under Section 80A of the Education Act 2002 and section 403 of the Education Act 1996 Appendix A

The statutory guidance from the Department for Education Equality Act 2010.

Definition

Relationship, Sex and Health Education involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues underpinned by our Catholic values.

Relationship Sex and Health Education is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about personal relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

Curriculum

We have developed our curriculum with recommendations from the Archdiocesan Education Department to ensure that they meet with Catholic Church teaching.

After consultation with parents Relationship Sex Education will be covered using the Archdiocesan recommended resource 'Journey In Love' 2020 this includes *sexual intercourse at Year 6. (See right of withdrawal)

We have considered the age, stage and feelings of pupils and have consulted with parents and staff to ensure we are offering a quality curriculum which is adequately catered to meet their needs.

We have looked at the advice from the PSHE Association and adapted the PSHE resource Jigsaw to supplement the RSHE curriculum to ensure all statutory curriculum from the Department for Education is covered.

If pupils ask questions outside the scope of our curriculum, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and do not seek answers online.

Delivery of Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

The schools RSHE programme runs from Early Years. Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is taught both discretely and within the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum lessons. Some aspects of the RSHE curriculum may be touched upon in other lessons as it shares links with Religious Education, Science and Physical Education.

Our RSHE will ensure that content is relevant to the age, experience and maturity of pupils.

The new statutory guidance for Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me.
- Caring friendships.
- Respectful relationships.
- Online relationships.
- Being safe.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of 'family life' and could include married or single parent families, same sex parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures, along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a support structure around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

As a school, we promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations. Our school environment uniformly applies values of inclusion and respect to all pupils and their families. All staff are proactive in promoting positive relationships and receive regular training.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils have access to the RSHE curriculum. Where pupils have specific educational needs, arrangements for support from outside agencies and support staff are made to ensure these pupils have an appropriate, differentiated curriculum.

Additional Needs

The school is aware that due consideration should be given to the educational entitlement of all the children in its care and that they are taught appropriately.

Roles and Responsibility

The Governing Body

The governing body will approve the RSHE policy and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSHE is taught consistently across the school and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from the non-statutory element of Relationship and Sex Education in Year 6* (see right of withdrawal)

The Role of the Coordinator

The Coordinator will regularly attend LA meetings and courses. They will keep the Headteacher, Governors and staff informed on up to date trends and good practice.

Staff

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSHE as this forms part of the Teaching Standards. Any staff who have concerns about teaching RSHE are encouraged to discuss this with the Headteacher.

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSHE in a sensitive way which complies with Church teaching.
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSHE.
- Monitoring progress.
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils.
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSHE and, when discussing issues related to RSHE, treat others with dignity, respect and sensitivity.

Role of the Parents

We wish to build positive partnerships with the parents of our children and this can only be achieved through mutual trust and cooperation.

We aim to:

- Inform parents about the school's Relationships, Sex and Health Education policy, programme and practice.
- Invite parents to view the materials and resources used to teach Relationships, Sex and Health Education
- Answer parental questions about Relationships, Sex and Health Education and where necessary signpost a parent to the relevant support agencies.
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing this policy and implementing modifications.
- Inform parents about best practice with regard to current Relationships, Sex and Health Education so that they may support key messages being given to the children in the school.

- Inform parents of their right to withdraw pupils from any area of Relationships, Sex and Health Education that is not taught under the Science curriculum (see below).

Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory component of sex education in Year 6. This is where sexual intercourse is taught discretely as part of the Physical aspect within Journey In Love the Archdiocesan recommended resource.

Requests for withdrawal should be made in writing and addressed to the Headteacher. The Headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from RSE.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from Statutory Relationships Education as set out in the DFE guidance 2020.

Monitoring and assessment arrangements

The delivery of RSHE is monitored by The RE Team by undertaking learning walks, staff and pupil consultations, planning and work scrutinies and questionnaires.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal informal assessment systems.

This policy will be agreed annually by the governors and reviewed every three years.

Confidentiality

Children have rights under the Children's Act 1989 and can thus expect incidents of issues of a sexual nature to be treated sensitively. However, no one can give guarantees of confidentiality where the safety and welfare of a child is at risk.

Child Protection

If any disclosure occurs during a health-based lesson and concerns are raised, teachers will follow the school's procedure for Child Protection.

Teachers have a duty of care and so any incident or potential incident (e.g. involving abuse) must be treated as a Child Protection issue.

Links to other policies

Other school policies which have relevance to RSHE are:

- PSHE/Citizenship
- Equal Opportunities
- Child Protection
- Behaviour Management/Anti bullying
- Drug Education
- Science

Specific Issues

If an individual child asks a difficult or explicit question, classroom teachers can address the issue raised by the individual later. The governors will be expected to support individual teachers in using their discretion and skills in these situations. Staff will be able to consult the Headteacher if concerned.

Sanitary Disposal Units are located in the cubicles of the Year 5 and 6 girls' toilets. Girls requiring sanitary protection are able to obtain this from the school office.

The school will follow the procedure outlined by the City Council with regard for supporting pupils or staff affected by HIV/AIDS.

Any person wishing to complain about aspects of the Relationship and Sex Education programme will be asked to do so to the Headteacher, who will then report to the Governors.

Resources

The PSHE Association www.pshe-association.org.uk
Jigsaw

Early Years Foundation Stage

Journey In Love 2020

The Underwear PANTS Rule www.nspcc.org.uk

Key Stage One

Journey In Love 2020

Key Stage Two

Journey In Love 2020

CEOP – National Crime Agency Command
www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, unless there are changes to the National and Local guidelines prior to this.