

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
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Relationship and Sex Education Policy 2018-2019

POLICY DETAILS:

Legal Status: Statutory

Version Date: September 2018

Next Review: September 2019

Responsible Person: Governing Board

Our Mission Statement:

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School we strive to create a stimulating environment so that learning, playing and working together, we openly follow Christ's teachings. We seek to offer every person the opportunity to be a unique and valued individual, sharing and developing belief in the teachings of Jesus through everyday relationships and mutual respect in our dealings with one another.

Rationale:

The church has always recognized that it is the privilege of parents and the responsibility of the family to inform and educate their children in all matters pertaining to human growth and development, particularly in the sensitive area of sexual development. We have an obligation to share this responsibility in partnership with home and parish. DfES circular 5/94 of the 1996 Education Act places responsibility for the school's policy on Sex Education in the hands of the Governing Body. Although it is the Governors of maintained Catholic Voluntary aided schools who determine whether or not they will have a written policy, the Bishops of England and Wales urge us to give our children positive guidance in Sex Education and a true appreciation of human gifts.

Defining Relationship and Sex Education:

The DFE guidance defines RSE as "Lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health." It is about the development of the pupil's knowledge and understanding of her or him 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. The DFE identifies three main elements: "Attitudes and values, personal and social skills and knowledge and understanding."

Statutory Curriculum Requirements:

We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSE which are statutory parts of the National Curriculum for Science. It is in this context that we have developed a policy for our school.

Aims and Objectives:

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School RSE is considered an essential element of the education of the whole child. Teaching about sexual matters is seen in the context of the personal, moral, spiritual and social development of the child, which is enhanced through the Catholic dimension of the school. Education in sexuality must be rooted in Catholic values and principles and within the framework of Christian moral education.

The RSE programme throughout the school aims to:

- Develop skills and attitudes that will provide a sound foundation for adult life.

- Engender in the children self-respect and self-worth and an understanding that their sexuality is part of God's plan and his gift to us.
- Increase the children's understanding of human development and reproduction.
- Enable the children to understand that love is the basis of meaningful relationships.

Equal Opportunities:

Access to the RSE programme is available for all pupils and is taught within the context of Equal Opportunities.

Organisation:

In most cases RSE will be taught by the class teacher. The teaching is underpinned by reference to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. A variety of teaching strategies should be employed. The programme seeks to promote dignity and respect and discussion will take place within a reverent environment.

Children's questions will be answered honestly and with sensitivity. Answers should be simple and straightforward and care must be taken not to arouse anxiety or confusion. All children will be encouraged to refer to their parents for further advice. A disclosure by a child which may alert the teacher to child protection issues must be dealt with in accordance with the Child Protection Policy.

Refer to Child Protection Policy.

The named person for child protection is Mrs Pratley (Headteacher)

Withdrawal

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RSE, except in those elements that 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. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help children with their learning.

We believe that the controlled environment of the classroom is the safest place for this curriculum to be followed.

Progress and Continuity:

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, we feel that by following the Diocesan Catholic Primary RSE curriculum, continuity will be ensured and the children's progress will be according to their own level of maturity and understanding. Assessment will take the form of self-assessment and any work produced by the children will be used as evidence of their progress.