



Due for Review every year

Reviewed by the Teaching and Learning Committee

Reviewed and adopted July 2014

School Mission Statement:

To educate and to develop every child's potential within our Catholic School Family

Introduction

In this policy the Governors and teachers, in partnership with parents, set out our intentions with regard to sex and relationship education. We set out our rationale for and approach to sex and relationship education in the school. It is characterised by a whole person, whole school, developmental approach thus setting it firmly within our distinctively Christian vision of education.

"The person of each individual human being, in their material or spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: this is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school..." Guidance on Education for Personal Relationships. Sex and Relationships Education 2006 Archdiocese of Westminster.

School Aims

- To encourage our children to develop their understanding of and relationship with God.
- To promote a safe, stimulating and rewarding environment in which our children can develop educationally, emotionally and spiritually.
- To encourage our children to show kindness, respect and consideration towards others.

Definition

SRE is about the development of the whole person towards becoming 'fully human, fully alive' as a unique creation made in God's image. "

The DfEE guidance defines SRE 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/himself 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.

Rationale

•"sexuality is a fundamental component of personality, one of its modes of being ... it is an integral part of the development of the personality and of the educative process"
Educational Guidance in Human Love para 4 CTS 1983

•"...children and young people should be helped to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual qualities... they should be given a positive and prudent education in matters relating to sex ...children and young people have the right to be encouraged to



make sound moral judgements with an informed conscience and to put them into practice by personal choice, and to know and love God better. Declaration on Christian Education para. 1 Second Vatican Council ed. by. W. Abbott 1966

- As a Catholic community we seek to support our children in their personal, physical and spiritual development with an approach that informs, clarifies and guides in an environment which promotes confidence to express uncertainties, to question, to trust, to listen and to respect.

- DfES document Sex and Relationship Guidance (DfES 2000) SRE is an entitlement for all children, as part of the curriculum requirements of Science (Life process and living things) and Health Education.

- We believe it is our privilege to support parents in their primary responsibility to enable their children to grow in understanding of human relationships and to educate and inform them in all matters of personal growth and development.

Aims for Sex and Relationships Education Programme

To promote the appreciation and development of attitudes and values which are truly gospel inspired, e.g., love, truth, justice, freedom, integrity and reconciliation.

To provide, appropriate to age and ability, full and accurate knowledge and understanding about sexuality and relationships.

To enable pupils to develop personal and social skills: to be confident in right relationships, to keep them safe from harm and to protect them from exploitation.

To offer perspectives that inspire awe at the wonders and beauty of the creation and development of human life.

To enable children are able to name the parts of the body; to describe how their bodies work; to protect themselves; and ask for help and support.

To develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feeling and relationships.

To prepare for puberty.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governors will recognise the primary role of parents in the education of their children and, 'in particular, sex education is a basic right of the parents and must always be carried out under their close supervision. The school recognises that education in sex and relationships is offered in the name of parents, with their consent and with their authorisation. Consequently, any school based education in sex and relationships must always be carried out in direct consultation with parents.'

Charter of the Rights of the Family, article 5c, (The Vatican), 1983. The Code of Canon Law, Can. 1136, Collins Liturgical Publications, (London), 1983

Governors

- Draw up the sex and relationship education policy, in consultation with parents and teachers. Ensure that the policy is available to parents;



- Ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children;
- Establish a 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 SRE within PSHE.
- Demonstrate pastoral sensitivity for the cultural, personal and family circumstances of children and young people while maintaining the integrity of Catholic belief and teaching.
- Enable the formation of children and young people through a consistent application of Catholic belief and teaching on matters of faith and morality across the whole curriculum and from all staff.

Head Teacher

The head teacher carries delegated responsibility for the sex and relationship education programme and is supported in the oversight of the programme by the PSHE co-ordinator, a senior member of staff and person with responsibility for child protection.

Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to write to the head teacher. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in sex education until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

NB " Parents are not entitled to withdraw their children from a school's provision of PSHE education outside of 'sex and relationships' because this is understood as part of the entitlement to 'a broad and balanced curriculum' enshrined in the 1988 Education Act"
Diocese of Leeds Office for Education and Schools 2012

Monitor the involvement, teaching and resources of external agencies/visiting speakers, and the resources within the school – in order that all presentations and content are in accordance with the belief and teachings of the Catholic Church.

Teachers

- Advise governors and work with the Link Governor on content and organisation of sex and relationship education;
- Develop suitable procedures for dealing with parental requests for withdrawal;
- Contribute to reviewing existing provision;
- Use professional skills in developing the curriculum;
- Draw on help and guidance from relevant sources, e.g., health professionals,
- Teach sex and relationship education curriculum as detailed in the schemes of work;
- Participate in monitoring and evaluating sex and relationship education.

Parents

- Parents have the right to be consulted before this policy is ratified by the governors.



- They will be consulted at every stage of the development of the sex and relationship education programme, as well as during the process of monitoring, review and evaluation.

- They will be able to view the resources used by the school in the sex and relationship education programme. We believe SRE will be most successful with parental input and in turn with support for parents.

N.B. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from sex and relationship education excepting those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders.

Parents will be encouraged to provide additional preparation and information as they wish.

Staff

‘Education in sexuality’ is part of education in relationships. Consequently, each young person is entitled to experience a school climate in which the quality of relationships between staff and pupils, between the pupils themselves, is marked by honesty, personal identification, warmth, trust and security’ All adult members of the school community are role models and educators in this dimension of pupils’ education. Every person contributes to a Catholic school’s programme of personal relationships and sex education.

Entitlement and Equal Opportunities

We provide a broad and balanced education in the sex and relationships programme for all pupils including those with special educational needs. We recognise that there are a wide range of pupils who may require particular support because of their learning needs or disabilities or who have social and communication difficulties or other needs. We recognise that learning and teaching methods may need to be adapted and specialist resources and training required. We shall ensure that children with special educational needs are not, at any point, withdrawn from education in sex and relationships because of lack of resources and training or in order to catch up on other subjects. [Equal Opportunity and SEND policies](#)

Confidentiality

Teachers and other members of staff cannot promise complete confidentiality. Disclosures by pupils and young people to members of staff that indicate that they are being abused or are at some risk of abuse will be referred by those members of staff to the person responsible for safeguarding in the school. The school will always follow local authority procedures and agreed school policies when dealing with safeguarding and child protection issues. [Safeguarding Policy](#)

Arrangements for Governors’ Monitoring & Evaluating Effectiveness - outline who will monitor the programme and how it will be monitored. How the outcome of the monitoring will inform future effectiveness of the programme.*[Feedback to Governors?](#)

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following St Mary’s School’s Policies

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Religious Education, Science, Literacy, Equality, Safeguarding and Child Protection, SEND, Gifted and Talented, Positive Behaviour and Anti Bullying



Sources

- Bishops' Conference Low Week statement 1987.
- The policy statement of the Diocese of Lancaster on education in personal relationships from 2010.
- Diocese of Leeds Office for Education and Schools CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS POLICY
- R.C. Diocese of Westminster Guidance on Education for Personal Relationships Sex and relationships Education December 2006

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