

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Here at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we learn and grow through the love of Jesus. Our community is a safe, caring and happy place where everyone is supported and valued. We encourage and challenge everyone to achieve their full potential, academically, spiritually, morally and socially. We inspire others with a love of learning and aim for excellence in everything we do. Through our own faith, we treat one another the way we would like to be treated. We help every child to be gentle and fair: to always do their best.

'Learning through the Love of Jesus Christ'

Introduction

Here at St Joseph's we are committed to giving all of our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and have high expectations of all the children. The achievement, attitude and well-being of all our children matter. This policy helps to ensure that this school promotes the individuality of all our children, irrespective of ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender or background. We do this by taking account of pupils' varied needs.

St Joseph's is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for its pupils and staff. The governors and staff are committed to promoting British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths, cultures and lifestyles.

In a Catholic school, any teaching or information on human love or human development must be within the whole context of our faith in God, who reveals himself in Jesus Christ. It is through our love of God and of our neighbour that we reciprocate that love. For many Christians this happens through the love between a man and woman.

Marriage is a sacrament in which many Christians can meet Christ through the adventure of learning to love one another. It is the consistent teaching of the church through the centuries that it is only in the context of marriage that sexual love can take on its true meaning. Marriage is a mutual commitment of total fidelity which is open to the gift of life. In the culture in which we live it is vital that our young people understand the importance of commitment for life. It is only through commitment that the deepest lessons of love can be learnt.

As Christians we recognize in joy that God has given himself to us completely in love and we respond to that love with the whole of our lives.

Aims and Rationale

"Man and woman have been created, which is to say willed by God: "Being man" or "Being woman" is a reality which, is good and willed by God: Man and woman possess an inalienable dignity which comes to them immediately from God their creator."

(369) Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)

"Genuine love is the fundamental vocation of every human being"

(2392) CCC

"The inclusion of positive, person-centred education is at the heart of Catholic Christian education. This education is about the growth, development and journey of the whole human person towards becoming 'fully human, fully alive' as a unique creation made in God's image".

Education in Sexuality (CES)

Date: Summer 2014

Date of next review: Summer 2016

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Education in sexuality is of paramount importance in our Catholic schools today. More than ever, young people in our care need help and guidance in their struggle to live out their lives as members of the Christian family.

Our overall aims at St Joseph's, support the personal, moral and social development of all pupils, ensuring that they have the ability to accept their own and others' sexuality in positive ways to enjoy relationships based on mutual respect, dignity and responsibility free from any abuse.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the E-safety Policy and the PSHE Policy.

Methodology

We intend that the school's SRE policy and programme will be delivered in conjunction with the school's Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) teaching and Religious Education programme. It will be in accordance with the principles set down in other relevant school's policies such as *Equal Opportunities* and *Inclusion*.

Aspects of SRE will be covered as part of the statutory element of the Science National Curriculum and through the Diocesan approved programme *A Journey in Love*.

Dealing with sensitive issues and responding to questions

Teachers will answer questions according to the teaching of the Catholic Church and with due regard to the nature of the question and the age and maturity of the child asking the question.

In some cases it may be inappropriate for the teacher to respond to a specific question and the pupil will be referred to his\her parents. In the same way not all questions will be answered publicly and the teacher will need to assess the appropriateness of the question to consider if it matches the maturity and understanding of the whole class group.

Teachers should never feel pressured into discussing their personal views or experiences and should always respect the sensitivity of their position as a teacher in a Catholic school.

Working with Parents

The Education Act, 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their child from any or all of the school's Sex Education programme although certain elements are covered under the Science National Curriculum which is the entitlement of all children. The school recognises that good communication is vital in this area and parents are invited to review the schools policy and ideally view all the materials used beforehand.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governors

In accordance with the Education Act, 1993 the governing body will keep up to date the school's policy for SRE, in consultation with parents and will make copies available to them. They will make known to parents their right to withdraw their children from all or part of SRE provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum.

Teachers

All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress; they should actively contribute to the guidance of the physical, moral spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach SRE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school.

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Parents

The school recognises that parents are the prime educators of their children and will seek to support them in their task. It will ensure that parents are kept informed of what is happening in SRE in terms of content, delivery and timing.

Programme

A Journey in Love – A Diocesan approved developmental programme for children in the primary years

(See objectives for each key stage in Appendix 1)

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE subject leader and the PSHE subject leader will monitor provision of SRE in the school.

Reviewing of Policy

This policy will be reviewed on a biannual basis. Any changes will be discussed with parents before implementation.

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Appendix 1

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE)

Foundation Stage

- Learn that they are created uniquely by God
- Learn that their body is a gift from God
- Name the main parts of the body
- Learn about babies growing into children and adults
- Learn that babies have special needs
- Learn that family and friends should care for each
- Recognise and deal with feelings in a positive way.

Key stage 1

- Recognise that they are created by God
- Know that humans move, eat, grow and reproduce
- Name parts of the body (set out exactly what should be learnt)
- Recognise themselves as male and female
- Learn how to improve personal hygiene
- Know that there are different types of families
- Recognise the roles of individuals, within the family
- Know that secure loving relationships within the family are important
- Recognise that families and friends care for each other.
- Learn that humans can produce babies
- Learn that babies grow into children and adults
- Hear about the ideal of loving and sharing in a Christian marriage
- Understand how to treat themselves and others with mutual respect and dignity
- Understand that their bodies are special and develop ways to protect and respect them
- Reflect on their contributions to building up loving family relationships
- To recognise, name and deal with their feelings in a positive way
- Become aware of what makes them feel uncomfortable and develop simple strategies for dealing with uncomfortable situations.
- Be able to talk about their emotions

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Key stage 2

- Learn the main stages of the human life cycle from birth to death.
- Learn about daily routines to care for your body and understand about a healthy life-style
- Explore the sacrament of marriage as an expression of love
- Investigate why parents need to care for their families
- Learn about themselves as a child of God and their body as a God's gift to them
- Develop awareness of the life cycle from conception to birth
- Deepen the understanding about what is meant by relationships within families
- Explore ways to reflect God's unconditional love in their lives.
- Explore the changes that come about through changes, body and feelings/emotions (including menstruation)
- Explore the need for a healthy life-style
- Learn how to manage their feelings as they change.
- Investigate what is involved in bringing up children
- Explore the meaning of friendship, trust and loyalty
- To be able to talk about relationships and know how to seek advice from significant adults.
- Understand that pressure to engage in unacceptable or risky behaviour can come from a variety of sources, including people they know, and to exercise basic techniques for resisting pressure.
- Understand about a healthy life-style and the options and choices they make.
- Reflect upon the importance of God's unconditional love.
- Know the basic biology of human reproduction within the context of marriage (including sexual intercourse)
- Develop an appreciation of what is involved in bringing up children.
- To recognise the risks in different situations and make judgements about behaviour.
- Learn about different kinds of relationships among friends and families and to develop the skills to be effective in relationships.
- To recognise that actions have consequences for themselves and others, recognise others' feelings
- Continue developing ways to talk about relationships and to seek advice from significant adults.
- Recognise the importance of forgiveness in relationships
- Develop ways to deal with the consequences of wrong choices