

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School



'Walk then as children of the light.'

RSE Policy

Date: June 2020

Review Date: June 2022





St Gerard's RC Primary School

Sex and Relationships Policy



We are all created as unique individuals, by God, in his likeness. God is therefore always at the very heart of our school. It is our role, as educators, to teach the message of the Gospels. The Gospel values of trust, honesty, forgiveness, loving and caring for one another are part of our everyday life. All our curriculum reflects these values, each individual must be encouraged to use God's gift fully. We do this through our school motto, mission, vision and values statements.

We aim to:

- Offer a curriculum which will help children to understand themselves, relate to others, and make sense of the world in which they live;
- Provide a curriculum in a Christian Catholic context in which children are encouraged and helped to achieve the highest standards of which they are able;
- Carefully monitor the progress of children to ensure that they reach their potential;
- Promote a love and enjoyment of learning;
- Provide for the special educational needs of each child;
- Strive to prepare children for the next stage of their educational life, through the development of appropriate skills.
- Ensure that all children have equality of opportunity in every aspect of school life
- Show that the way of Jesus Christ is the way to learn to love;
- Enable children to know what they are loved and respected and individuals;
- Provide in our school environment an atmosphere of love and respect where children in turn will learn to love and respect each other;
- Provide a supportive community of staff, parents, governors and parish, where children can learn the meaning of the gospel values of love, truth, forgiveness, justice and peace.
- Teach and encourage children to live according to the values of the gospel of Jesus Christ, in a spirit of mutual cooperation, peace and harmony.
- Ensure that the uniqueness of every person in the school community is valued and respected

Introduction

Sex and relationship education is defined 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 fully human and sexual being, called to live in right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience.

The DfES document identifies three main elements: "attitudes and values, personal and social skills and knowledge and understanding".

At St Gerard's Catholic Primary School, our inclusion of Sex and Relationship Education within the curriculum is clearly underpinned by our school Mission. Vision and Values Statements- where we place great emphasis on the uniqueness and value of each individual, made in the likeness of God and where we also aim to enable the children to develop relationships built on respect and understanding of the needs of themselves and others. It is also supported by our Religious Education Programme (Come and see). We are developing the implementation of the new SRE scheme within school across all age ranges.

Principles:

Whilst fully acknowledging and complying with legal requirements, we stress the Christian influence on our teaching of all areas of the curriculum and that this teaching is placed firmly within the tradition of the Roman Catholic faith.

Sex education is an integral part of the growth and development of our pupils and cannot be neglected if the school is fulfilling its statutory obligation.

We view the partnership of home, school and parish as vital in providing the context for the lifelong process of religious formation. Positive and prudent sex education begins within the family and we cannot overstate the importance of parental involvement. "The first and primary educators of children are their parents..." (Religious Dimensions of education in a Catholic School).

We believe that sex and relationship education is a lifelong process, which recognises that human sexuality is gift from God. Because of this, we strive for the very highest of Christian ideals in our teaching and learning.

Aims:

Sex and relationship education includes biological knowledge and understanding of how the reproductive system works but it also includes knowledge and understanding about relationships, feelings and behaviour and about making choices. Because of this we aim to:

- Provide an accurate knowledge and understanding about sexuality and relationships appropriate to age and ability.
- Raise their awareness in keeping themselves safe from harm and in protecting themselves from exploitation.
- Explore the meaning and value of life and give some appreciation of the values of family life.
- Enable pupils to have an understanding that love is central to and the basis of meaningful relationships.
- Enable pupils to have an understanding of their own bodies and their emotional development.
- Enable pupils to develop personal and social skills and to reflect on their own relationships, recognising the qualities that help relationships to grow and develop in a positive way.

We believe that the development of a person-centred education is at the heart of Catholic education. Our aims, 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, without discrimination and to enjoy relationships based on mutual respect, dignity and responsibility.

Roles and Responsibilities Parents

'Parents are the first and best educators of their children' (Second Vatican Council). At St Gerard's Catholic Primary School, we seek to support parents in their role, through working in partnership with them. Parents are informed they have the right to withdraw their children from sex and relationship education if they so wish, with exception of those elements that are required by the National Curriculum. Any such request should be made in writing.

Governors

Governors have a responsibility for the provision of the policy and the sex and relationship education programme rests with the governing body.

Teachers

Teachers will advise governors on the content and organisation of sex and relationship education. Working in partnership with health education professionals, teachers will have the ultimate responsibility of using their professional skills to develop and teach the sex and relationship education curriculum. Opportunities will be provided for review and evaluation of the programme on an annual basis and this will be in consultation with the Head teacher and health professionals as appropriate. The Head teacher will have responsibility for dealing with requests from parents to withdraw children from sex and relationships education lessons.

Management of Teaching and Learning:

Foundation stage and Key Stage 1 will endeavour to help children to:

- Understand the importance of valuing themselves and others
- Recognise their membership of the family and recognise the roles of individuals in the family.
- Be able to name the external parts of their body.
- Recognise that babies have special needs.
- Appreciate relationships; in school, community, friends, family, working together, playing and praying together.
- Know about rituals of emotions and how we can deal with them.
- Know about being safe. Such issues as appropriate and inappropriate touching may be discussed by class teachers if necessary and under direction of the Head teacher.

·Have an awareness of personal health and safety and hygiene issues.

At Key Stage 2 teachers will endeavour to help children to:

- Value themselves as children of God and their bodies as God's gift to them.
- Understand that they grow and change through life.
- Understand what is meant by relationships within families, friends and communities
- Develop an appreciation of what is involved in bringing up children and what responsibilities parents have.
- Know the rituals celebrated in Church related to birth, marriage, death, forgiveness, decision making: the sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, sacrament of the sick, Confirmation and Holy Orders.
- Believe that God has a purpose in their lives and that they have a vocation
- Be aware of their changing emotions and the need to respect other peoples' emotions and feelings.
- Begin to know about and understand the changes that come through puberty.
- Know and understand their own bodies and the need for personal hygiene.
- Know the basic biology of human reproduction.
- Appreciate that life is a precious gift from god.
- Become aware of the choices they make and that they are good choices and wrong choices.
- Recognise the importance of forgiveness in relationships and the all-embracing forgiveness of God.

Cross-Curricular

At St Gerard's Catholic Primary School all teachers recognise that the content of a sex and relationship curriculum, requires enormous sensitivity on the part of the adult in its delivery. The emphasis we place on positive relationships permeates all aspects of the curriculum and forms the basis of attitudes within our school.

The content of the sex and relationship education curriculum normally occurs within the framework of our Religious Education teaching (Using Journey in Love as a guide), Science teaching and PSHE the National Curriculum. DfES guidance recommends that both boys and girls know about puberty and how a baby is formed.

At Key Stage 1 pupils will learn:

- That animals including humans move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce young.
- To recognise and compare external parts of human bodies.
- That humans and animals can reproduce offspring, and these grow into adults.
- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and treat others with sensitivity.

At Key Stage 2 pupils will learn:

- That life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction.
- About the main stages of the human life cycle.
- About how the choices they make can affect other people and along with choice comes responsibility.

Upper Key Stage 2: Physical body changes

- Changes in emotions
- Human reproduction

Monitoring and Assessment:

Teachers at St Gerard's Catholic Primary school are encouraged to critically reflect on their work in delivering the sex and relationship education programme to engage children in consideration of the relationships in which they are involved. Implicit in good teaching is teachers' on-going assessment and evaluation of their own performance and delivery as well as how lessons have been received and understood by the children. We work within a climate of on-going monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of our work and this process will impact on the sex and relationship programme as with other curriculum areas.

Special Educational Needs:

Due to the unique nature of this subject, special needs will be considered in terms of the child's relationship with others, him/herself and God. These relationships may be affected by circumstances such as bereavement, family difficulties, family breakdown, damaged friendships, arguments etc. Due regard will always be given to the ethnic diversity of our school community so that all teaching is presented in a manner

sensitive to our cultural diversity. Special needs may be assigned to a particular group, it may also be necessary to acknowledge and deal with the extra special needs of a sexually abused child.

Review:

This policy is the responsibility of the *Governing Body* and will be reviewed by them on a two-yearly cycle with specific reference to the Diocese for review.

Mrs Fiona Taylor (RE coordinator)
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