

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Catherine's is a school where prayer, worship and learning are centred around the teachings of the Risen Christ.

Together, guided by God, we are:

- Growing in Faith
- Learning for Life
- Aiming for Excellence

Inspired by the Holy Spirit we value individuality and celebrate diversity by building positive relationships within our community.

RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY

Policy Adopted: 16 October 2018

To be reviewed: October 2019

This policy is correct as at the date of the policy. However, any information documented within may be superseded by any new information received from the LA or the Diocese after the date of the policy and which will be automatically adopted with immediate effect.

General Principles/Introduction

The Governing Body believes that Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is an essential part of a holistic education since its focus is the individual, uniquely created by God in His own image. Through RSE, children come to understand more about themselves, others and the beauty of Creation

The Governors recognise that it is their duty to provide a programme of RSE for pupils which supports parents/carers in their key role as teachers in this.

RSE is presented in the context of Gospel values and the Church's teaching on morality.

Rationale

Our approach to RSE will be a positive one because:

- We are made to love and be loved.
- What we say with our bodies should reflect what we mean in our hearts and minds.
- Genuine love is creative.

We affirm that human sexuality is an essential dimension of personal identity as it forms a fundamental part of God's gift of Life. We offer a profound understanding of the joy and depth of human sexual relationships.

"In his own image he made them, male and female he made them...God saw all that he had made and found it very good."

Aims

- To provide a supportive environment for RSE to take place where questions can be asked and honestly answered.
- To develop in pupils a sense of their own self-worth and uniqueness as created by God.
- To help pupils to come to a deeper understanding about themselves as they grow.
- To provide pupils with accurate, factual information about the reproductive process according to age, experience and level of understanding.
- To correct mis-information and misunderstanding children may have gained
- To teach pupils to respect their own and each other's bodies.
- To teach pupils about the importance of love and respect in relation to all relationships and *especially* sexual relationships and to set this in the context of family life and marriage.
- To teach pupils about responsibility for oneself and others.
- To enable children to make informed choices
- To develop an understanding about the importance of parenting skills.
- To develop an awareness of the importance of emotions, feelings, instinct and right judgement in relation to self protection.

- To help pupils recognise the physical, emotional and moral risks of casual and promiscuous behaviour.
- To present fact in an objective and balanced manner and to use appropriate terminology to enable pupils to discuss issues without embarrassment or fear.

RSE is delivered through:

We intend that the school's RSE policy and programme shall be delivered in combination with the school's Education for Personal Relationships (EPR) programme (Primary) and also in accordance with the principles set down in other relevant school's policies such as, Equal Opportunities, Child Protection and Inclusion.

Aspects of RSE will be covered as part of the statutory element of the Science National Curriculum.

Dealing with sensitive issues and responding to questions

Teachers will answer questions honestly but with due regard given to the nature of the question and the age and maturity of the questioner. (Teachers will refer to the Glossary in 'Journey in Love').

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 and teach accordingly.

Working with Parents

The Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their child from any or all of the schools 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 of 1993 the Governing Body will keep up to date the school's policy for RSE, 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 RSE 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 RSE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available to all staff teaching RSE.

Parents

The school recognises that parents are the primary 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 RSE in terms of content, delivery and timing.

Programme

Following the advice and direction of the Diocese we use the programme 'Journey in Love' for all year groups. We engage with outside activities as appropriate. We use the Bounty Health Network - 'Growing Up - A Guide to Puberty' DVD to support pupils in their knowledge and understanding.

Please see Appendix 1 for areas covered in 'Journey in Love'

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Governors of St Catherine's Catholic Primary School have approved this policy on
The policy will be reviewed annually (?)

APPENDIX 1

Areas covered by 'Journey in Love' -

Reception - God loves each of us in our uniqueness

Children know and understand that God has made them unique and that although we are all different, we are all special to Him.

Year 1 - We meet God's love in our family

Children know and understand that they are growing and developing as members of their own family and God's family.

Year 2 - We meet God's love in the community

Children know and understand that they are growing and developing in a God-given community.

Year 3 - How we live in love

Children know and understand the virtues essential to friendship, e.g. loyalty, responsibility, and experience the importance both of forgiving and being forgiven, and of celebrating God's forgiveness.

Year 4 - God love us in our differences

Children know and understand that they are all different and celebrate these differences as they appreciate that God's love accepts us as we are and as we change.

Year 5 - God loves me in my changing and development

Children know and become aware of the physical and emotional changes that accompany puberty - sensitivity, mood swings, anger, boredom, etc. and grow further in their understand of God's presence in their daily lives.

Year 6 - The wonder of God's love in creating new life

Children develop, in an appropriate way for their age, an understanding of sexuality and grow further in their appreciation of their dignity and worth as children of God.