

# St. Joseph's RC Primary School

## Relationship & Sex Education (RSE) Policy

### Article 28

Every child has the right to an education.



## RSE in Catholic schools

This policy covers our school's approach to Relationship and sex education.

Catholic schools, like all other schools in England, are required to produce a written policy following the guidance issued by the Department for Education on Sex and Relationship Education (SRE). Catholic schools are also required to deliver RSE in accordance with the teaching of the Church. Our approach is compatible with the guidance issued by the DfE and our policy is produced in consultation with staff, governors, parents and pupils and diocesan guidance. Parents will be informed about the policy through curriculum evenings and it will be available via the school website. Paper copies will be made available on request.

### 1. Why is RSE in Catholic Schools important?

Our school's overarching aims and objectives for our pupils through teaching RSE is that part of the mission of Catholic schools is to educate the whole person. It should be carried out as part of the holistic education which seeks to form as well as inform young people in preparation for adult life.

*Catholic Schools... will develop a range of attitudes and activities that promote and support the dignity and worth of everyone. (Catholic Schools, Children of Other Faiths and Community Cohesion: CES and Bishop's Conference 2007 p.13.)*

### 2. Why teach RSE at primary school?

- It provides an opportunity to talk about feelings and relationships
- It promotes the skills necessary for effective communication and loving, caring, respectful and happy relationships.
- It prepares children for the physical and emotional changes that will take place at puberty
- It helps develop positive attitudes, values and self-esteem and challenges negative attitudes and prejudices.
- It promotes the skills necessary for effective communication and loving, caring, respectful and happy relationships.
- It protects children from sexual exploitation and inappropriate on line content
- It is a statutory part of the science curriculum covering the biological aspects of RSE

### Definition of RSE

*Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) has been renamed as RSE: Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) to emphasise the relationships aspect of RSE. This was one of the recommendations from the Commons Education Committee Feb 2015*

Relationship and Sex Education is not just learning about growing up, changes and reproduction. It is also about enabling children to make and maintain relationships with others, to understand about human sexuality and to feel good about themselves and the choices they

make. This involves helping children to gain knowledge, develop skills and form positive beliefs and attitudes.

### 3. Aims for RSE

- **Knowledge and Understanding** including; emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up, puberty, reproduction and pregnancy, similarities and differences between males and females, parts of the human body including the male and female reproductive parts, gender stereotyping and discrimination, different families, different types of relationships, healthy and unhealthy relationships and where to get help if needed.
- **Personal and Social Skills** including; talking and listening to others, managing emotions, making friends and managing friendships, forming and maintaining loving, caring and respectful relationships, developing self-respect and empathy for others, respecting the differences between people, resilience to cope with change, making responsible and safe decisions, including on line.
- **Attitudes and Values** including; feeling positive about growing up, the importance of respect, care and love, the value of family life, the importance of stable and loving relationships, including marriage (both heterosexual and gay) and civil partnerships, respect for rights and responsibilities in relationships, acceptance of difference and diversity, promoting gender equality.

### 4. Values promoted through RSE

Our RSE programme promotes the aims and values of our school which include:

- The sanctity of marriage; valuing family life and stable, loving and committed relationships
- Acceptance of same sex unions as also offering stable, loving and committed relationships for bringing up children
- Respect for self and others
- Commitment, trust and love within relationships
- Respect for rights and responsibilities in relationships
- Understanding diversity regarding religion, gender, culture and sexual orientation
- Working to reduce intolerance and discrimination based on sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion, and gender
- Acceptance of difference and diversity
- Promoting gender equality, challenge gender stereotypes and inequality and promote equality in relationships

**Care is taken to ensure there is no stigmatisation of children based on their different home circumstances.**

Our provision of RSE is part of our approach to support the health and wellbeing of children and our commitment to being recognised as a healthy school.

## 7. Pupils and Parents

Consultation and involvement of pupils will be different depending on their age and level or maturity. At Key Stage 1 and 2, it will be important to explore with children the prior learning they bring to the classroom. Through the recommended diocesan programme, Journey in Love, we will take the views of the children which will shape our future work in RSE and PHSE. We are committed to working with parents and carers. We inform parents about the school's sex education policy and practice;

- answer any questions that parents may have about the sex education of their child;
- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for sex education in the school;
- Inform parents about the teaching about sex education in school so that the parents and school can work together to support the child with regard to sex education. We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the sex education programme that we teach in our school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from sex education lessons, they should discuss this with the headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in. The school always complies with the wishes of parents in this regard.

Even when a child has been withdrawn from RSE lessons, if the child should ask questions at other times, these questions *would* be answered honestly by staff.

## 8. Organisation

We teach relationship and sex education through different aspects of the curriculum. We hope to achieve our aims through a planned PHSE curriculum, using the "Journey in Love" programme recommended for the teaching of Relationship and Sex Education in Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools and through our Religious Education Work. We also teach some relationship and sex education through other subject areas (for example, science and RE),

Each year *Journey in Love* it takes up a theme of love.

Nursery: Wonder at God's love.

Reception

Year: God loves each of us in our uniqueness.

Year 1: We meet God's love in our family.

Year 2: We meet God's love in the community.

Year 3: How we live in God's love.

Year 4: God loves us in our differences.

Year 5: God loves me in my changing and development.

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

We also work to ensure that these themes support the Relationship strand of the PSHE Association Education Programme of Study (Key Stages 1 – 4) October 2014 <https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/uploads/media/27/8113.pdf>

In PSHE we teach children about relationships, and we encourage children to discuss issues. We teach about the parts of the body and how these work, and we explain to them what will happen to their bodies during puberty. For example, we tell the boys that their voices will change during puberty and we explain to the girls about menstruation.

In science lessons, teachers inform children about puberty and how a baby is born. For this aspect of the school's teaching, we follow the guidance material in the national scheme of work for science. In Key Stage 1 we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce, and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. Children learn to appreciate the differences between people and how to show respect for each other. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth.

In Key Stage 2 RE children will learn about the commitment of people of faith to each other in marriage and how this is expressed in marriage ceremonies. They will learn about the beliefs and values that underpin this commitment and support the nurture and care of children in the family.

In Years 5/ 6 we place a particular emphasis on health education, as many children experience puberty at this age. We liaise with the school nurse about suitable teaching materials to use with our children in these lessons. Staff do their best to answer all questions with sensitivity and care. By the end of Key Stage 2, we ensure that both boys and girls know how babies are born, how their bodies change during puberty, what menstruation is, and how it affects women. We always teach this with due regard for the emotional development of the children. We arrange a meeting for all parents and carers of children in Year 6 to discuss this particular programme of lessons, to explain what the issues are and how they are taught, and to see the materials the school uses in its teaching.

The programme will be led by our PHSE co-ordinator supported by the Senior Leadership Team. It will be taught by class teachers and supported by the school nursing team where appropriate.

## **5. Confidentiality**

Teachers conduct relationship and sex education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. If the teacher has concerns, they will draw their concerns to the attention of the headteacher and/or the designated teacher for child protection and safeguarding.

## **6. Monitoring and review**

The governing body delegates responsibility to the Headteacher to monitor this policy on an annual basis. Any findings and recommendations are made to the Local Management Board, as necessary, if the policy needs modification.

The RSE Policy has clear links with other school policies aimed at promoting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, including the:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- PSHE Policy

Behaviour Policy  
Anti-Bullying Policy  
Safeguarding /Child Protection Policy  
ICT Policy and Safe Internet Use Policy  
Confidentiality Policy