

## **St Mary's Catholic Infant School Relationships and Sex Education Policy**

**2021**

### Rationale

'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full'

John 10.10

We acknowledge that Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship, as well as Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) are all underpinned by a theology of relationship and are all encompassed in the title 'Relationships and Sex Education'.

Our belief in the unique dignity of the human person as made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in our school. Our approach to relationship and sex education therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and is presented positively and prudently.

Stemming from this vision of what it means to be human, we seek to educate the whole child spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally, psychologically and physically towards our understanding of Christian maturity.

Following guidance from our own Bishop and Diocese, the Conference of Bishops for England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE, all relationship and sex education in our school will be firmly embedded within the Religious Education framework, as it is concerned primarily with nurturing the human wholeness of our pupils.

All relationship and sex education will be in accordance with the Church's moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from and support will be provided to help pupils with different sets of values.

### Aims of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

- To encourage pupils' growth in self-respect, acknowledging that we are all created in the image and likeness of God
- To help pupils develop an understanding that love is the central basis of relationships
- To help pupils to understand the nature of relationships and encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people.
- To develop pupils' confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.
- To help pupils to acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships.
- To offer sex education in the wider context of relationships.
- To ensure that pupils protect themselves and ask for help and support when needed.
- To help pupils to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle.
- To prepare pupils to play an active role as citizens and to understand the Catholic vision of what it means to be citizens of the Kingdom of God.

### Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught through our life in school and through the subjects of Religious Education, Science and by way of a cross curricular integrated approach.

All elements of PSHE and Citizenship, whilst non-statutory at Key Stage 1 are covered. Significant aspects of sex and relationship education remain part of the National Curriculum for Science. These will be taught to all pupils. (Parents are unable to withdraw pupils from such lessons).

#### Key Stage One (ages 5-7)

- That humans move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.
- To name the main external parts of the body.
- That humans grow from babies into children and then into adults, and that adults can produce babies.
- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and other pupils.

#### Key Stage Two (ages 7-11)

- That human families are an important factor in the care and support for all people, and they can give love, security and stability.
- That there are different kinds of family units and each are valid.
- That marriage or lifelong commitment are an important part of the stability of a family.
- That friendships help us to feel happy and secure, and to learn to judge the level of trust needed in a friendship and when a friendship makes us feel unhappy.
- That some relationships are unhealthy when one party does not treat another with respect, and that it is important to learn how to recognise bullying (including cyberbullying).
- That we must take steps to keep safe online and what to do if we are unsure.
- That there are boundaries in every relationship and that we need to learn what is respectful, safe and permitted, and how to remain safe if somebody tries to cross a boundary or make us feel uncomfortable.
- In line with the science curriculum, to understand the biological facts of human reproduction and to be able to discuss them accurately and confidently.

We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to RSE as the school of its very nature operated through positive human relationships. We recognise value and greatly appreciate the contribution made by all members of staff in deepening the quality of our Christian community. Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in RSE. Careful consideration will be given to the wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in their care.

#### Resources

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the key persons for children learning about relationships and sex. Our role and our programme simply complement their role in nurturing their children's human wholeness. The role of parents and our daily interactions are currently supported by the recommended resource 'Journey in Love'.

#### Assessment, Recording and Reporting

A record is kept in teachers' planning of the delivery of RSE. The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the coordinator in accordance with the schools monitoring and evaluation policy. Pupils are given the opportunity for self-evaluation at an appropriate level for each year group. Reporting is made in individual pupil's reports under the heading 'General Comment'.

### Safeguarding Procedures

The school has procedures to deal with any sensitive issues or children thought to be vulnerable. Staff will report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, and a deputy Safeguarding Lead in the case of an absence.

### The Governing Body

The Governing Body recognise their responsibility to ensure the RSE programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects Church teaching.

### The Role of Parents/Carers

The Church recognises that it is the privilege and the responsibility of parents to educate and inform their children in all matters pertaining to personal growth and development particularly in the sensitive area of their moral education and sexual development. The Church also recognises that many parents require help and support in this task from school and parish. The Governing Body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishop's Conference and will always ensure that Parents/Carers are supported in their task

Parents/Carers are consulted and kept informed of the RSE programme and any subsequent developments.

### Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored annually by the RSE Coordinator and will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body. Parents/Carers will be consulted before any proposed changes.