Relationships and Sex Education Policy

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

At St Bernadette's, we believe that relationship and sex education needs to be a highly personalised area of the curriculum. We encourage parents and carers to discuss education for personal relationships with their child when they feel it is appropriate as these are the first as best educators of their children.

Through the teachings of our Catholic faith we believe that each person is special and unique in the eyes of God and it should be so in our eyes also. Every member of staff is therefore committed to developing and fostering a positive self-image in every child from the day they enter.

In this policy the Governors and teachers, in partnership with parents, set out their intentions about relationships and sex education (RSE). We set out our rationale for and approach to relationships and sex education in the school.

Growing together in faith, love and learning

Rationale

'I HAVE COME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL'
(Jn.10.10)

We are involved in Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) precisely because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person. The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Our approach to RSE therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

At the heart of the Christian life is the Trinity; Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in loving relationship and embracing all people and all creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God's gift, reflect God's beauty, and share in the divine creativity. RSE, therefore, will be placed firmly within the context of relationship as it is there that sexuality grows and develops.

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE (and the Welsh Assembly Government) RSE will be firmly embedded in the PSHE/RSHE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils. It is centred on Christ's vision of being human as good news and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

All Relationship, Sex and Health Education RSHE 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. It will also prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

Aim

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School aims to provide a suitable programme that follows the statutory need to include RSHE into their curriculum from September 2020 which meets the ethos of its Catholic identity and mission.

The purpose of this Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) policy is to set out the ways in which the school's provision supports pupils through their spiritual, moral, social, emotional and physical development, and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life growing up in today's world.

Our School's mission embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children and young people, and through an agreed approach to Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) using the Archdiocesan recommended resource 'Journey In' Love 2020 we believe that we can promote the development of the whole child, so that children can grow in *virtue, wisdom and stature,* understanding both the emotional, social and physical

aspects of growing spiritually, as well as moral aspects of relationships within a context of a Christian vision for the purpose of life.

The other aspects of the Statutory curriculum intent will be met by HeartSmart, Come and See, Journey In Love, IT Curriculum and Statutory Science.

The Purpose

The aims of Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place.
- Help pupils develop feelings of dignity, self-worth, self-respect, confidence and empathy.
- Prepare pupils for puberty and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene.
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships.
- Teach pupils the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies.

Policy Development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, pupils and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

1. Review – Mrs Crowder, Mrs Ferguson, Governors and Liverpool Archdiocese Christian Education Team

2. Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations.

3. Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties including the Diocesan adviser/schools officers were invited to attend meetings about the policy.

4. Pupil consultation – we investigated what exactly pupils want from their Relationship Sex and Health Education.

5. Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified.

Definition

Relationship, Sex and Health Education involves a combination of sharing information, and exploring issues underpinned by our Catholic values.

Relationship Sex and Health Education is about the emotional, social and cultural development of pupils, and involves learning about personal relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

Curriculum

We have developed our curriculum with recommendations from the Archdiocesan Education Department to ensure that they meet with Catholic Church teaching.

After consultation with parents Relationship Sex Education will be covered using the Archdiocesan recommended resource 'Journey In Love' 2020 this includes *sexual intercourse at Year 6. (See right of withdrawal) alongside HeartSmart covering the RSHE and PHSE programmes of study.

We have considered the age, stage and feelings of pupils and have consulted with parents and staff to ensure we are offering a quality curriculum which is adequately catered to meet their needs.
We have adopted the HeartSmart Scheme of Work with 'Journey In Love' alongside for RSE statutory content.

If pupils ask questions outside the scope of our curriculum, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner so they are fully informed and do not seek answers online.

Delivery of Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

Relationship and Sex Education (RHSE) is taught both discretely and within the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum lessons. Some aspects of the RSHE curriculum may be touched upon in other lessons as it shares links with Religious Education, Science and Physical Education.

Our RSHE will ensure that content is relevant to the age, experience and maturity of pupils.
The new statutory guidance for Relationships education focuses on teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships including:

- Families and people who care for me.
- Caring friendships.
- Respectful relationships.
- Online relationships.
- Being safe.

These areas of learning are taught within the context of 'family life' and could include married or single parent families, same sex parents, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parents/carers amongst other structures, along with reflecting sensitively that some children may have a support structure around them (for example: looked after children or young carers).

As a school, we promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations. Our school environment uniformly applies values of inclusion and respect to all pupils and their families. All staff are proactive in promoting positive relationships and receive regular training.

Outcomes

INCLUSION AND DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING

We will ensure RSHE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances; for example their own sexual orientation, faith or culture and is taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help. (In looking at these questions, it is important to draw links to the school's inclusion policy).

EQUALITIES OBLIGATIONS

The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, pregnancy, maternity, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

BROAD CONTENT OF RSE

Three aspects of RSHE - attitudes and values, knowledge and understanding, and personal and social skills will be provided in three inter-related ways: the whole school / ethos dimension; a cross-curricular dimension and a specific relationships and sex curriculum. Our programme will cover the following objectives:

- Reception: God has made me unique and although we are all different, we are all special to Him.
- Year 1: I am still growing and developing as member of my own and God's family
- Year 2: I am growing and developing in a God-given community
- Year 3: I understand what values are essential in friendship. I experience the importance of forgiving and being forgiven and of celebrating God's forgiveness
- Year 4: I know that we are all different and we should celebrate our differences. I know that God loves and accepts me as I am and as I change.
- Year 5: I am aware of physical and emotional changes that accompany puberty. I further understand God's presence in my life.
- 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.

Roles and Responsibility

The Governing Body

The governing body will approve the RSHE policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation.

The Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that RSHE is taught consistently across the school and for managing requests to withdraw pupils from the non-statutory element of Relationship and Sex Education in Year 6* (see right of withdrawal)

Staff

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSHE as this forms part of the Teaching Standards. Any staff who have concerns about teaching RSHE are encouraged to discuss this with the headteacher.

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSHE in a sensitive way which complies with Church teaching.
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSHE.
- Monitoring progress.
- Responding to the needs of individual pupils.
- Responding appropriately to pupils whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory components of RSE.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to engage fully in RSHE and, when discussing issues related to RSHE, treat others with dignity, respect and sensitivity.

Parents' right to withdraw

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory component of sex education in Year 6. This is where sexual intercourse is taught discretely as part of the Physical aspect within Journey In Love the Archdiocesan recommended resource.
Requests for withdrawal should be made in writing and addressed to the headteacher. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.
Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from RSE.
Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children
from Statutory Relationships Education as set out in the DFE guidance 2020.

Monitoring arrangements

The delivery of RSHE is monitored by Mrs Crowder supported by SLT and Mrs Ferguson by undertaking learning walks, staff and pupil consultations, planning and work scrutinies and questionnaires.

Pupils' development in RSE is monitored by class teachers as part of our internal informal assessment systems.

This policy will be agreed annually by the governors and reviewed every three years.

Resources

The PSHE Association www.pshe-association.org.uk

Early Years Foundation Stage

Journey In Love 2020

The Underwear PANTS Rule www.nspcc.org.uk

Key Stage One

Journey In Love 2020

Key Stage Two

Journey In Love 2020

CEOP – National Crime Agency Command
www.thinkuknow.co.uk