

St George's Catholic School



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Our Mission Statement:

To provide a broad and balanced curriculum based in a Catholic Christian setting where we are led by the Spirit of Christ. We believe that, "Children and young people should be helped to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual qualities."

Policy and Practice

Reviewed: Summer 2017

Next Review date: Summer 2018

Approved by the Governing Body of St George's Catholic School

RELATIONSHIPS and SEX EDUCATION POLICY (RSE)

RATIONAL

*"... children and young people should be helped to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual qualities; they should receive a positive and prudent education in matters relating to sex; ..."*¹

As a school, our teaching in RSE is informed by reflection on the teaching of the Church. Three important concepts underpin the approach to RSE education in St. George's Catholic School:

- The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God;
- The belief that we are called to love and be loved;
- The belief that we are called to form relationships to live in community.

*"The inclusion of positive, person-centred education is at the heart of Catholic Christian education. This education is about the growth, development and journey of the whole human person towards becoming 'fully human, fully alive' as a unique creation made in God's image".*²

*"God is love and whoever lives in love, lives in God".*³

Education in sexuality is of paramount importance in our Catholic schools today. More than ever do the young people in our care need help and guidance in their struggle to live out their lives as members of the Christian family.

Our overall aims at St George's Catholic School are to 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 to enjoy relationships based on mutual respect, dignity and responsibility free from any abuse.

*"The school shares with parents the responsibility to provide positive and prudent relationship and sex education and aims to enable pupils to keep themselves safe and protected from exploitation."*⁴

AIMS of RSE

Sex Education at St George's Catholic School, recognizes that human sexuality is a gift from God. It is concerned with the spiritual and moral, as well as the physical and social.

It is about relationships, feelings and behaviour as well as biology and how the reproductive system works, and it facilitates growth and emotional maturity.

OBJECTIVES of RSE at St GEORGE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

¹ Declaration on Christian Education, para 1 Ed Abbott 1966

² Education in Sexuality' CES

³ From the inaugural address of Pope Benedict XVI

⁴ Clifton Diocese 'Guidance for Education in Relationships and Sex Education in Schools'

At St George's Catholic School our objectives are:

- To engender growth in self respect and self worth, recognizing that each of us is created in the image of God.
- To explore the meaning and value of life, and give some appreciation of the values of a family life.
- To enable pupils to understand that love is the basis of meaningful relationships.
- To have an awareness of where pupils/children are, in their knowledge and understanding so that concerns can be identified, and provide a forum where pupils can share their concerns and offer a climate of support where they know they can be listened to sensitively.
- To explain the process of human procreation and enable pupils to have some understanding of themselves, their own bodies and their emotional development as they grow and change.
- To enable pupils to recognize the importance of the choices they make and that they are responsible for the decisions they take; and to help pupils resist peer, social and media pressures where necessary.

EDUCATION in SEXUALITY at St. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

KEY STAGE 1

By the end of Key Stage 1 pupils should be able:

- to understand the importance of valuing themselves and others;
- to recognise and appreciate the term 'family' and the different formats it can take;
- to recognise their membership of the family and recognize the roles of individuals in families;
- to understand growth and know themselves as male and female.
- to be able to name the main external parts of the body;
- to recognize babies have special needs;
- to appreciate relationships, friends, family, working together, sharing, playing together.
- to know about rituals that mark life and death, birth, marriage, death;
- to recognise that life is a gift from God and is precious;
- to recognise the range of emotions and how to deal with them;
- to recognise the need for personal health and safety, and personal hygiene;
- to appreciate that some diseases are infectious;
- to know about being safe;
- to know the difference between good and bad touching; (not in the 2012 guidelines)
- to recognise and understand the dangers associated with the use of the internet and other technology.

EDUCATION in SEXUALITY at St. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

KEY STAGE 2

By the end of Key Stage 2 pupils should be able:

- to value themselves as a child of God, and their body as God's gift to them;
- to understand and explain how they grow and change throughout life;
- to understand what is meant by relationships within families, friends and communities;
- to develop an appreciation of what is involved in bringing up children and what responsibilities parents have;
- to become aware of the different patterns of friendship;
- to know the rituals celebrated in Church, marking birth, marriage and death;
- to be aware of their changing emotions and the need to respect other people's emotions and feelings;
- to begin to know and understand about the changes that come about through puberty;
- to know and understand their own bodies and their need for personal hygiene;
- to know the names for the parts of the body;
- to know the basic biology of human and animal nutrition, growth and reproduction;
- to appreciate that life is precious and a gift from God;
- to understand the responsibility they have for the choices and decisions they make;
- to recognize the importance for forgiveness in relationships.
- to know and use appropriate language during whole class, group and paired discussions;
(not in guidelines)

ORGANISATION of RSE

- Edwina McDonnell is the designated teacher with responsibility for co-ordinating relationship and sex education.

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 of the policy available

to them. They will make known to parents their right to withdraw their children from all parts of SRE provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum. The governing body will monitor and evaluate the RSE programme and resources, and provide training and inset for all staff to help them understand the Church's teaching in this area.

- **Teachers**

All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and 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 for all staff teaching RSE. All teachers, including those not directly involved in the teaching of RSE, will be aware of the school's policy and participate in monitoring and evaluating relationship education.

- **Parents**

We recognize that parents are the primary educators of their children and the school will seek to support them in this task. They will ensure that parents are kept informed of what is happening in SRE and of our experience of their children. Information will be given to parents about the programme and resources which will be used.

- **Pupils**

Pupils will be helped to develop a positive attitude and sense of responsibility regarding their own and others' sexuality; to have a sense of self-esteem that enables them to enjoy relationships based on mutual respect, dignity and responsibility.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

- Sexuality is a gift from God.
- We are made to be loved and to love.
- What we say with our bodies should reflect what we mean in our hearts and minds.
- Mature Christian sexuality involves openness and commitment to others.
- Genuine love is creative.

BEST PRACTICE

- focuses on 'Good News.'
- has a whole school approach.
- is a part of a developmental programme.
- has a whole person approach.
- recognizes and develops partnerships with parent/family.

- takes into account and evaluates current attitudes.

RESOURCES

- *All That I Am* scheme (Dept of RE, Don Bosco House, Warwickshire) including Teacher's Book and CD (approved by the Diocese of Clifton).

SAFEGUARDING

Staff at St. George's follow procedures outlined in our Safeguarding Policy should any safeguarding/child protection issues arise.

THE CONTEXT

This policy has been written in the context of:

- Diocese of Clifton, Education for Personal Relationships Guidelines for Primary Schools 2003.
- Diocese of Clifton, Guidance for Education in Relationships and Sex Education in Schools, 2013
- PSHE and Citizenship non-statutory Framework from Sept 2000.
- PSHE and Citizenship Initial Guidance at Key Stage 1 and 2 (QCA/00/579)
- Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (DfEE 0116/2000).

LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- RE
- Behaviour
- Bullying
- Special Needs
- Health and Safety
- Science
- Disability and equality
- Inclusion
- PSHE + citizenship
- Child protection/Safeguarding
- ICT and eSafety

CONSULTATION

The Assistant Headteacher/RE Lead has drawn up this document after consultation with staff, governors and parents and in consultation with the head teacher.

REVIEWING OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the RE Lead.

Any changes perceived will always be discussed with staff, governors and parents before implementation.