

Education for Personal Relationships Policy

St Anne's Catholic School and Sixth Form College



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1. INTRODUCTION

Education for Personal Relationships is central to education at St Anne's as we enable each individual to develop his or her full potential (Mission Statement). Through the gospel God has been revealed as love: love within the Trinity and love reaching out in Christ to all people. Stemming from our vision of what it means to be human, we seek to educate the whole person: spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally, psychologically and physically towards Christian maturity. Without the ability to understand ourselves and to reflect upon our relationships with others we cannot develop our full potential.

We acknowledge that PSHE and Citizenship as well as Sex Education are all underpinned by a theology of relationship and so are all encompassed in the title 'Education for Personal Relationships'.

We acknowledge the need to address issues raised by the actual experience of pupils today.

Education for Personal Relationships is not the responsibility of one department alone. In all areas of the curriculum it is possible for issues concerning relationships and personal growth to arise and it is inevitable that the teaching of an apparently unrelated topic will occasionally lead to a discussion of aspects of sexual behaviour. As a Catholic school, it is natural that our teaching in this area will acknowledge the doctrine and teaching of the Church, while remaining open to positive conversation and non-judgemental inclusivity in the context of modern British Values and it is expected that all staff will treat the issues with the greatest sensitivity.

Three departments play an essential and complementary role in educating students in personal relationships and in sex education. These are the Religious Education, Science and PSHE.

2. BACKGROUND

Academies do not have to follow the National Curriculum and as such, are not obliged to teach SRE.

If academies do teach SRE, they are required by their funding agreements to have regard to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

The following documents from the Catholic Church have given the framework in which this policy has been drawn up:

- Veritas Splendor (1993)
- Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994)
- What are we to teach? Bishop's Conference (1994)
- Broad areas of attainment in Religious Education (1994)
- The truth and meaning of human sexuality CTS (1998)
- Education for Love CES (1998)
- Every Child Matters: Change for Children (2005)
- Human Sexuality and Personal Relationships: Guidelines from Diocese of Portsmouth (2015)

This policy should be read in line with other core policies and documents at St Anne's, including:

- Teaching and learning policy
- Curriculum audits
- Safeguarding policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Behaviour policy

3. AIMS

- ❖ To offer students a Catholic Christian framework of values to help them make informed decisions
- ❖ To help students to understand the nature of relationships and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people
- ❖ To enable students to gain a full understanding of their own physical and emotional development
- ❖ To develop students' confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- ❖ To help students to acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships, including enhancing self-esteem
- ❖ To offer sex education in the wider context of relationships, recognising the value of marriage and family life while recognising the full range of contexts that exist in contemporary society.
- ❖ To help students to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle
- ❖ To prepare students to play an active role as citizens
- ❖ To fulfil curriculum requirements

4. DELIVERY

EPR is taught through PSHE, Religious Education and Science as well as other areas of the curriculum by way of a cross-curricular, integrated approach. All elements of PSHE and Citizenship are covered. We also acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to EPR, as the school, of its very nature, operates through positive human relationships. An annual 'map' of provision and delivery is created each summer term when departments audit their curriculum. All pupils are given equal access to EPR, including Sex Education, within the curriculum.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Co-ordinator

A member of the Senior Leadership Team is assigned to co-ordinate the implementation of the policy. He/she will ensure that the resources used across the curriculum reflect relationships and sexuality in the context of God's plan for creation, as revealed through Scripture, and balance the

needs of society, the curriculum and the centrality of Church teaching. The co-ordinator is also responsible for guiding and training colleagues, for example:

- the delivery of PSHE sessions when unfamiliar to a teacher
- final decision-making in the engagement of outside agencies
- guidance and advice when a member of staff is approached for specific advice on contraception or other aspects of sexual behaviour
- liaison with Heads of Year and the Designated Safeguarding Lead where a student under the age of 16 requests advice.
- liaison with Heads of Year when a student over the age of 16 requests advice. Normally, the student will be encouraged to make his/her parents aware of a situation that has arisen that needs consideration; if he/she cannot do that then a decision will be made by the co-ordinator, in consultation with the Headteacher where appropriate, as to the best way to pursue the situation. Reference may be made to the school nursing service or other professionals.

Heads of Department

Heads of department must be mindful of the requirements of this policy when designing the curriculum in their area, as well as when choosing examination boards, specifications and set texts.

Teaching Staff and Cover Supervisors

Those delivering any aspect of the curriculum covered by this policy must be mindful of the requirements and guidelines set out in this policy as well as the nature of Catholic Christian education.

Parents

We recognise that parents are the first teachers of their children and we wish to encourage the involvement of parents with us in the education of their children. We see the role of the school as one that complements and supports the education for personal relationships already provided by home and family. The school will inform parents at the start of each term which aspects of EPR are being covered by the curriculum in the term ahead.

In choosing a Catholic Christian education for their children and in entrusting their children to the care of St Anne's staff, it is hoped that parents will embrace all aspects of the educational offer, as indicated by their signing of the home-school agreement on admission. This includes sex education that sits outside the curriculum. The school acknowledges the right of parents to withdraw students from the non-statutory and non-curriculum components covered by this policy. Requests for withdrawal should be made in writing and addressed to the headteacher. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the student's educational record. The headteacher, or other relevant member of staff, will discuss the request with parents and will take appropriate action. Alternative work will be given to pupils who are withdrawn from these aspects of the provision.