

# Relationship & Sex Education Policy



Through respect we will work together in Christ to develop the  
whole person

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Leader: Mark Edwards

**St Matthew's Catholic Primary School**  
**RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY**

**July 2020**

**Through respect we work together in Christ to develop the whole person**

**Rationale**

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

*(Jn.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' (RSE).

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 of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE, all relationship and sex education in our school will be firmly embedded in 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 deal with different sets of values.

### **Aims of Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)**

- To encourage pupils' growth in self respect, acknowledging 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 to 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.
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- To help pupils 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 ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty.

- 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/reign of God.

### **Delivery of RSE**

RSE is taught through our life style in school and through the subjects of Religious Education, Science and by way of a cross-curricular, integrated approach. We follow 'Journey In Love'

All elements of PSHE and Citizenship, whilst non-statutory at Key Stage 1 and 2, 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 1 (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 2 (7 – 11)***

- *That the life processes common to humans and all animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction*
- *The main stages of the human life cycle.*

We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to RSE as the school, of its very nature operates 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.

While we operate a whole school approach to Relationship and Sex education through our RSE Programme, pupils in Year 5 will learn about the emotional and the physical changes of puberty. For this particular part of the curriculum and due to the sensitivity of this curriculum matter children will be taught together or as single sex groups. A similar approach will operate in Year 6 during the topic of how human life is conceived.

### **Resources**

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the key persons for children learning about relationships and sex; the foremost educators. Our role and our programme simply complement their role in nurturing their children's human wholeness. However, the role of parents and our day to day interactions in school are currently supported by the following curriculum resources:

A Journey in Love

### **Assessment Recording and Reporting**

A record is kept in teacher's planning of the delivery of RSE. The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the co-ordinator in accordance with the school's 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 'General Development'.

### **Outside Agencies**

The expertise of outside agencies will be used appropriately *to support* but not at the expense of the school's delivery. The school is particularly thankful of the help available from local diocesan agencies and charities

such as Nugent Care. We will also use the school nurse for additional advice if necessary.

### **Curriculum Continuity**

The school has an ongoing dialogue with the PSHE Co-ordinator of St Matthew's Catholic Primary school; RSE, RE, Spiritual, Moral and PSHE policies complement each other as appropriate.

### **Safeguarding Procedures**

The school has procedures to deal with any sensitive issues or children thought to be vulnerable. Staff will pass on any concerns of this nature to the designated child protection officer in school.

### **The Governing Body**

The Governing body and Foundation Governors in particular recognise their responsibility to ensure the RSE programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church's teaching

### **The role of Parents**

The Church has always recognised 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 both schools and parishes.

The Governing body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishops' Conference and will always ensure that:

- Parents are supported in their task.
- Parents are consulted and kept informed of the EPR Programme; its contents, evaluation and review and any subsequent developments.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

It is our hope that parents would wish their children to be involved in the schools positive and prudent programme of relationship and sex education, following annual consultation regarding the school's approach. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from such lessons (not included in National Curriculum Science) after discussion with the headteacher.

### **IMPACT OF CORONA VIRUS 2020**

Due to school closure in March 2020, the curriculum moved to a dual curriculum until the end of the 2019/20 academic year. This focussed on consolidating their knowledge and making use of Come and See online resources. Children had to engage in activities through online platforms such as Class Dojo. Teachers followed adapted plans sent by the archdiocese to ensure that children were not missing out on the topics that were meant to be taught while they could not attend school. For the 2020/21 academic year, a recovery curriculum will be in place to ensure there are opportunities to deliver missing learning and make sure there are no gaps in children's knowledge.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be monitored annually by the RSE Co-ordinator and will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.

This policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of St Matthew's Catholic Primary School. It will be reviewed by the Governors and headteacher in conjunction with all the staff two years from the date below.

Signed..... (Chair of Governors)

