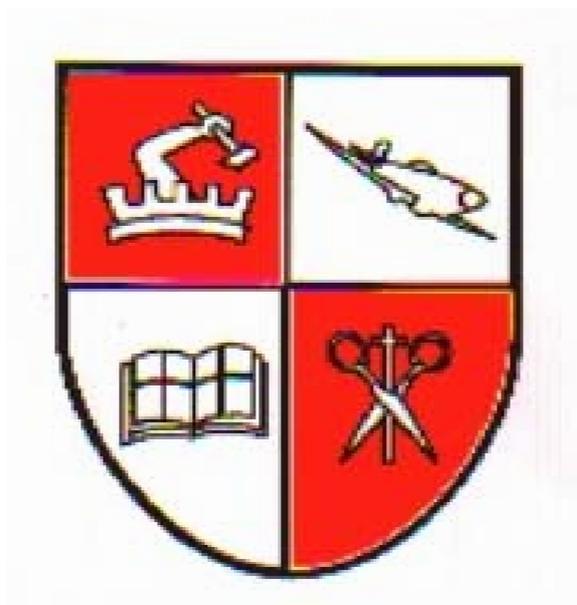


ST. GERARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY

Our Mission Statement

'With Christ at our side and St Gerard as our guide, we strive for perfection.'

St Gerard's school motto, reinforces our Mission Statement in a child friendly way.

'We live, love and learn together with Jesus.'



St. Gerard's R.C. Primary School Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

School Mission Statement

Our Mission at St Gerard's is to provide a loving, caring atmosphere enabling each individual to develop intellectually, socially and spiritually. As a Catholic school, the foundation of all we do is based upon Christ and His Gospel values of Love, Peace and Justice. We will strive to ensure that the members of our community are happy and fulfilled in their lives at school.

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What is Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)?

The DFE guidance defines RSE as "lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care." It is about the development of the pupil's knowledge and understanding of her or him as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. The DFE identifies three main elements: "attitudes and values, personal and social skills, and knowledge and understanding."

Statutory Curriculum Requirements

We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSE which are statutory parts of the National Curriculum for Science. However, the reasons for our inclusion of RSE go further.

Our approach to RSE is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person. We believe in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God, which underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Consequently, 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 supported by the DFE, RSE will not be taught as a separate subject but will be delivered across the curriculum and will

be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework, as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils.

With the emphasis on the importance of marriage and family life, all RSE should encompass moral, spiritual and church teachings within the requirements of the National Curriculum according to the age and needs of the children at this school.

Aims of RSE

Our School Mission Statement commits us to the education of the whole child, spiritually, physically, intellectually, morally, socially, culturally and emotionally and therefore we believe that RSE is an integral part of this education. The governing body recognises that the prime responsibility for RSE must rest with the parents and any teaching in school will be with support of the parents. Additionally, it will always be taught within the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Objectives:

To develop the following attitudes and virtues:

- reverence for the gift of human sexuality and fertility;
- respect for the dignity of every human being;
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures;
- responsibility for their own actions and recognising the impact of these on others;
- recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others;
- celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life;
- fidelity in relationships.

To develop the following personal and social skills:

- making sound judgements and good choices;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying;
- managing emotions within relationships, with confidence, sensitivity and dignity;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures, developing the ability to assess pressures and respond appropriately;
- assessing risks and managing behaviours in order to minimise the risk to health and personal integrity.

To know and understand:

- the Church's teaching on relationships;
- the Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;

- about the human reproductive systems.

Equal opportunities and inclusivity

The school's RSE programme will reflect the ethos of the school, by providing a secure, non-judgemental environment in which to learn. All RSE will be appropriate to the needs and experiences of each child at St Gerard's, using a sensitive approach, which will recognise individual needs and will take due regard of gender, disability and cultural issues.

RSE programme

The purpose of the programme is:

1. To give children an understanding of change and growth concerning:
 - Relationships (with God, themselves, family and community)
 - Emotions
 - Physical development
2. To give children the opportunity to reflect upon and prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage and for family and life experiences.
3. To develop an awareness of the need for respect of self and others, as part of God's creation.
4. To teach the relevant Science National Curriculum programmes of study and the PSHE and Citizenship framework, with emphasis upon the spiritual and moral teachings of the Catholic faith.

Specific Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) content

As part of the whole RSE Policy the following topics will be taught, as outlined in the 'All that I am' teaching programme, developed by the Diocesan Department of Religious Education:

- Puberty
- Menstruation
- Boys' physical development
- Personal behaviour

Both Year 5 and 6 programmes intend to develop an understanding of individual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual areas. The Year 5 programme aims to both augment pupil's understanding of their physical and emotional development and promote ways in which young people can examine stereotypes of masculine and feminine behaviour; while the Year 6

programme, builds on the areas covered in Year 5, with the purpose of providing further and more detailed accurate information about pupils' human and physical development. (See appendix for the programme's objectives)

RSE will take place initially in the summer term of Y5 and will be developed further throughout Y6.

Topics not taught: contraception, sexual intercourse, conception, fertilisation and birth.

Methods of teaching

Due to the sensitive nature of RSE and the exploration of emotions, a wide range of teaching strategies will be used, such as:

- Establishing ground rules
- Discussions/ activities with class or small group
- Reflection
- Brainstorming
- Use of relevant books, film and video (parents are very welcome to see these resources)
- Assemblies
- Professional visitors e.g. school nurse, NSPCC, Life organisation
- Availability of single sex discussion for specific issues
- Question box approach (for sensitive or complex issues)

Parents and carers

We recognise that parents (and other carers who stand in their place) are the primary educators of their children. As a Catholic school, we provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children. Parents/ carers will be informed by letter when the more sensitive aspects of RSE will be covered in order that they can be prepared to talk and answer questions about their children's learning.

Parents are kept informed of progress and have the right to withdraw their children from RSE that are not part of the statutory National Curriculum requirements. (See appendix for Parents' letter)

Responsibility for teaching the programme

Responsibility for the specific RSE programme lays with the class teacher. However, all staff will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspect of the RSE programme. They will be role models for pupils of good, healthy, wholesome relationships as between staff, other adults and pupils. They will also be contributing to the development of pupils' personal and social skills.

External visitors

Our school will often call upon help and guidance from outside agencies and health specialists to deliver aspects of RSE. Such visits will always complement the current programme and never substitute or replace teacher led sessions. The school will follow LA guidelines and will contact the LA/ HEU team if in doubt, regarding the suitability of outside programmes always with the proviso that it must fall within the teachings of the Catholic Church. It is important that any external visitor is clear about their role and responsibility whilst they are in school delivering a session.

Children's questions

Sometimes an individual child may ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. Questions do not have to be answered directly and can be addressed individually later. All staff should use the question box approach and can then discuss the question with a senior member of staff and/ or parent, who may wish to discuss the question with their child themselves.

Supporting children and young people who are at risk

Effective RSE will provide opportunities for discussion of what is and is not appropriate in relationships. Such discussion may well lead to disclosure of a safeguarding issue. Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is a victim of or is at risk of abuse, they are required to follow the school's safeguarding policy and immediately inform the designated senior member of staff responsible.

Confidentiality and advice

Pupils will be encouraged to talk to their parents/ carers about the issues which are discussed in the programme. Teachers will always help pupils facing personal difficulties, in line with the school's pastoral care policy, however, pupils will be informed that 100% confidentiality cannot be assured, in matters which are illegal or abusive for instance.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE co-ordinator will monitor the provision of the programme by examining plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils work throughout the course of the year. Teachers, the RE and PSHE co-ordinator and the Head Teacher will undertake the informal evaluation of the programme. The policy will be reviewed annually, unless a more immediate response is needed to new legislation or guidance.

Last Reviewed: May 2016

Review: May 2017

Reviewer: L.Jones, RE Co-ordinator

Appendix

Dear Parents,

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

During this term, as part of the curriculum, Year 5/ Year 6 will be studying the changes they can expect during puberty. They will learn about why these changes occur, health and hygiene. This will be taught in the context of relationships and from a Catholic perspective.

It is likely that your child will want to discuss with you what they have been learning in school.

You have the right to withdraw your child from parts of these lessons that are not covered by the statutory National Curriculum guidelines or the PSHE and Citizenship framework.

If you wish to discuss this further, could you please contact me, thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Hird.

'All that I am' SRE programme and objectives

Year 5 programme

Episode 1 - Individual

Pupils will learn:

- that they are unique and made in the image of God
- that physical and emotional growth is common to all of us and a normal part of becoming an adult
- to accept and respect themselves

Episode 2 - Physical

Pupils will learn:

- that the difference between boys and girls is part of God's creative and loving work
- vocabulary to describe menstruation
- to celebrate the difference between boys and girls

Episode 3 - Social

Pupils will learn:

- what the Church teaches in relation to personal responsibility and the dignity of the person
- to take responsibility for their personal hygiene
- how to manage socially awkward situations

Episode 4 - Emotional

Pupils will learn:

- how the Church recognises the importance of our emotions and how they can shape our actions
- to identify a wide range of feelings in themselves and others
- to take responsibility and manage their feelings appropriately
- an awareness of the responsibility we have towards each other

Episode 5 - Spiritual

Pupils will learn:

- that our spiritual relationship with God links together and transforms all aspects of our person
- the basics of authentic friendship with others and God
- when they do and do not feel comfortable with themselves
- to identify when confidentiality is and is not appropriate

Year 6 programme

The Year 6 programme aims develop pupils' ability to:

- Express opinions
- Listen to others and be listened to
- Respect other people's viewpoints
- Recognise the physical and emotional changes that are happening during puberty
- Be self-confident in a range of new situations, such as seeking new friends
- Recognise their own self-worth and identify positive things about themselves

Each of the episodes and support materials address specific learning objectives:

Episode 1 - The Road Ahead, Recap and Reprise

Pupils will learn:

- to recap on the 5 episodes in the Year 5 Resource
- to reprise female physical development

Episode 2 - The Road Ahead, Your changing bodies - Boys

Pupils will learn:

- to have knowledge and understanding of male physical development

Episode 3 - The Road Ahead, Personal Behaviour

Pupils will learn:

- to have self-confidence and skills
- to translate these into personal behaviour in a range of situations such as making new friends