



# St John's Catholic Primary School

## Sex and Relationship Education Policy

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

*(John 10:10)*

### **St. John's R.C. Primary School Sex and Relationship Education in Catholic Schools**

#### **1. Rationale**

Although the provision of sex education is not statutory in the primary phase, education in itself is about the growth and development of the whole person. It should aim to integrate a pupil's intellectual, spiritual, moral, emotional, psychological and physical development, thus assisting towards Christian maturity (A programme of study for Education in Personal Relationships 2000). In a Catholic school any teaching on human love or human development must be within the context of our faith in God. What God has made is good and holy and we have a responsibility to educate our children to live life in relationship with one another, fulfilling Christ's law of love. We feel that it is important that a framework exists to facilitate effective teaching; to ensure that it is age appropriate and within the context of Catholic philosophy and beliefs, and our school ethos.

#### **1.1 Mission Statement**

St. John's is a Roman Catholic School which endeavours to develop and support the individual needs and talents of all members of its community and enables them to learn and live through faith and education.

The school aims are:-

- (a) To integrate each child's holistic, development through a balanced and creative curriculum that sees God as the centre of the learning process.
- (b) To ensure that we lead our children to a greater understanding of the Catholic Faith. Through worship and the development of spirituality and community life, we aim to enable the children to appreciate and respect themselves, their world and the beliefs and cultures of others.
- (c) To provide a curriculum that will develop the full potential of each person and educate the whole child in an environment, that encourages growth in self-confidence and the acquisition of skills, attitudes and values.
- (d) To acknowledge that we are commanded to love God, love one another and to respect ourselves and other people by encouraging the development of meaningful relationships in our school.
- (e) To share our aims and beliefs with our children through the "St. John's Way".

## 1.2 Church Teaching

As a Catholic school we must ensure the education of our children on loving relationships in line with gospels values. All Sex and Relationship Education provided by Catholic schools must be in accordance with Catholic teaching. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* reflects the role of education in human love in the context of wider personal relationships. The following is a brief summary from the *Catechism*:

*"God created man and woman in his own image, with equal dignity, difference yet complementary. Our sexuality is a gift from God, and must be expressed according to his will of love. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, and we are one body with Christ. Chastity should be presented in a positive way: it is a gift from God, leading to a self-control which frees us to behave towards ourselves and others with love and with justice. God's holy gift of sexual intercourse is reserved for the permanent commitment of marriage, expressive of the bond of mutual love and open to God's gift of new life"*  
(Para 2331-2400, 2514-2533)

The document from the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, *Education Guidance in Human Love* states:

*"Sexuality is a fundamental component of personality, one of its modes of being, of manifestation, of communicating with others, of feeling, of expressing and of living human love. Therefore it is an integral part of the development of the personality and of the educative process."* *"Sex education is not reducible to simple teaching material, nor theoretical knowledge alone, nor does it consist of a programme to be carried out progressively, but it has a*

*specific object in view: an effective maturation of pupils' self-control and of correct behaviour in special relationships" (SCCE 1983)*

### **1.3 Statutory Requirements**

Statutory requirements for Sex and Relationship Education are set out in the 1986 and 1993 Education Acts, with further references in the Education act 1996. DfEE Sex and Relationship Education guidance outlines the statutory requirements, attitudes and values, personal and social skills, knowledge and understanding.

Education for personal relationships is statutory in the foundation stage through Personal, Social and Emotional Development. In key stage one and two it is non-statutory, but is incorporated through National curriculum Guidance for Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship (see PSHE and Citizenship policy).

The legal requirements for the Science curriculum at key stages one and two include teaching a number of areas which should be linked with the Church teaching on the sanctity of human life:

- By the end of key stage one children are expected to understand that human beings move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce; to be able to recognize and compare the main external parts of the bodies of human being; to know that human beings can have children and these grow into adults; to be able to recognize similarities and differences between themselves and others, and to treat others with sensitivity.
- By the end of key stage two children are expected to know that the life processes common to humans and other animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction, and to understand the main stages of the human life cycle.

### **1.4 Parental Responsibility**

*"It is important to state once again that the Church has always recognized that it is the privilege and 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 and sexual development. The Church also recognizes that many parents require help and support in this task from both schools and parishes" (Bishops Low Week Meeting, 1994)*

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any sex education outside the National curriculum requirements. Year 6 parents will have an opportunity to see and discuss content of the material used during 'Growing up' lessons. They have the right to withdraw their child if they wish - consent forms will be sent home for signature. See APPENDIX 1

## **2. Aims and Objectives**

“Genuine love is the fundamental vocation of every human being” (Para 2392, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.)

The school aims to provide a sex and relationship education programme that is appropriate to the age and ability of the pupils and reflects the Gospel values. It will enable them to:

- Understand the nature of relationships and reflect upon the way in which these are conducted.
- Acquire the necessary skills to develop and handle both their present relationships and those which are likely to occur in the future.
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be fully human, called to live in the right relations with self and others and being able to make moral decisions in conscience.
- Learn about physical, moral and emotional development.
- Develop awareness about sex, sexuality and chastity.

## **3. Practice**

Sex and Relationship education will not be taught as a discrete subject. It will be delivered using a holistic approach, permeating the curriculum at a whole school level.

- It will feature in the planning and delivery of Science, Religion and PSHE and Citizenship.
- The individual class teachers will mainly teach the programme.
- In the summer term of Year 6, an outside agency will hold a ‘sex and relationship’ workshop which will focus on the changes to body, emotions and relationships during puberty. All content will be directed by the Headteacher in accordance with the Church’s teachings.
- Parents (see 1.4 Parental Responsibility) will have the opportunity to see and discuss the content of the lesson. They have the right to withdraw their child if they wish. Consent forms will be sent home for signature.

### **3.2 Planning**

Sex and Relationship education will be planned for as cross-curricular elements:

- Through Science and PSHE and Citizenship.
- Appropriate teaching and learning styles will be used.
- Differentiation will occur to ensure individuals of all abilities are provided for (see 1.1 mission statement).
- Development of the key skills literacy, numeracy and ICT will occur where necessary.

### **3.3 Role of the Co-ordinator**

Co-ordination and delivery of Sex and Relationship Education is the responsibility of the RE co-ordinator under the direction of the Headteacher; in collaboration with the Science and PSHE co-ordinator and in partnership with teachers, parents/carers and the governing body.

### **3.6 Monitoring and Evaluation**

Governors are responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the programme and resources used.

### **Race Equality and Equal Opportunities**

All children have equal access to the curriculum regardless of their gender, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals and are committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment to achieve their potential.

Date

Dear Parents / Carers,

The education company 'Future Creative' will hold a Sex and Relationship workshop with the Year 6 children on \_\_\_\_\_. The content of the day is aimed at Year 6 aged children and the main theme will be growing up. The focus of this work relates to emotions, puberty and hygiene.

Parents can make the decision to withdraw their child from this talk. You are welcome to contact your child's class teacher to discuss the content.

Please complete the form below and return it to your child's class teacher before \_\_\_\_\_.

Yours sincerely

**Year 6 Leader**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sex and Relationship workshop

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

I do / I do not give permission for my child to participate in the workshop.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent / Carer)

The person responsible for this Policy is the RE-Coordinator

Date of review: November 2017

Date of next review: November 2018