

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Consideration, Care and Courtesy

A WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY FOR RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

The directive from the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales 1987 and 1994 calls upon all Catholic schools to formulate a policy and specific approaches with regard to Relationships and Sex Education.

This documents draws attention to the fact that it is our Christian understanding of the process of education that demands the issues of relationships and sex education appropriate to the developmental needs of young people are addressed in school.

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

(Education in sexuality CES 1995)

At St Edmund's we have considered relevant requirements and have decided on a policy of relationships and sex education. This will embrace issues of personal relationships within the curriculum and pastoral life of the school ensuring all children are protected from ignorance and are given the necessary information and correct answers suited to their individual needs.

Aims for Relationships and Sex Education

Our overall aim is to work with parents to ensure that our children have the support needed for their personal, moral and social development, where they have the ability to accept their own and others sexuality in positive ways, and to enjoy relationships based on mutual respect, dignity and responsibility, free from any abuse.

With our pupils we wish, from an early age:

- To explore the meaning and value of life, and give some application of the values of family life.
- To enable pupils to have some understanding that love is central and the basis of meaningful relationships.
- To enable pupils to have some understanding of themselves, their own bodies, and their emotional development as they grow and change.
- To encourage pupils to be aware of their attitudes and values and have a sense of responsibility for themselves.
- To enable pupils to reflect on their relationships and recognise the qualities that help relationships grow and develop positively.
- To promote fundamental British values, law, liberty, respect and tolerance of others, including those of different beliefs and faiths; providing them with the skills and attitudes to participate fully in a democratic society.
- To have some understanding of and to give sensitive consideration to the beliefs, values and cultures of others.
- To provide a forum where pupils can share their concerns and offer a climate of support where they know they will be listened to sensitively.
- To correct mis-information.

Objectives

At St Edmund's we intend to build a happy, safe, secure and peaceful environment for all our children. This approach will be based on gospel values and meet the needs of each child.

Organisation

We believe that education for relationships and sex education cannot be taught simply as a discrete subject of the curriculum, for pupils learn above all from the personal relationships and attitudes they experience in their everyday life in school, in all parts of the curriculum and in every activity. This is not to say, however, that it happens without planning. The whole ethos of the school centres around the child in our Christian community, where planning for the development of the whole child is central to our mission.

Education in relationships and sexuality is developed from the earliest years through the everyday experiences of the children and needs opportunities which present themselves, as well as through planned programmes.

"Come and See" is the scheme used throughout the Archdiocese of Liverpool for the teaching of Religious Education in the Catholic school. We use this scheme alongside our PSHE and other resources such as 'Growing up Guide to Puberty' and the Life Education Unit. Activities and discussions planned are both age and maturity related, and linked closely with the everyday curriculum of the children. They are monitored and evaluated in line with all activities planned within the curriculum.

Liaison with others forms a vital part of this programme. Working partnership with parents, the school governors, the school nurse and other relevant agencies is used to support the programme where appropriate.

Aims

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With our pupils it will provide opportunities to:

- Appreciate that life is a gift from God and that relationships are a part of their whole personality.
- Make children aware of different relationships that exist between people, physical, social and emotional.
- Develop skills to form effective relationships by encouraging them to be aware of different values and attitudes.
- Help children to develop the ability to determine their values and attitudes within a moral framework.
- Have a sense of responsibility for themselves and towards others by helping them understand that their actions affect themselves and others.
- Encourage them to think about other peoples' feelings and to try and see things from their point of view.
- Enable the children to recognise the importance of the choices they make and that they are responsible for their actions.
- Value themselves and see their body as a gift in line with gospel beliefs.
- Give the children an understanding of his/her growth and development, preparing them for physical, social and emotional changes during puberty.

- Enable children to understand the impact of external factors such as the media, internet, peer groups and in so doing encourage the ability to make informed decisions.
- Research and discuss topical issues, problems and events and reflect on moral, social and cultural issues.

Parents

Parents are informed about the programme. If a parent wishes to withdraw their child from lessons involving relationships and sex education, they will be allowed to do so but Governors do not present this as a formal option with a reply slip. It is for the parent to use their own initiative to write to ask permission to withdraw their child from the lessons.

Specific Content

Has been discussed with parents to ensure they are aware of the children's physical and emotional needs at each stage of their development and how this will be met. Staff will consult with parents at their discretion, if a child's enquiry needs parental support. Biological facts will be taught in accordance with the National Curriculum, with most of the work being incorporated in R.E. i.e. Come and See programme and PSHE. Specialists will be invited into school to deal with specialist topics e.g. Life unit, Health Visitor/Nurse who discuss growth/development aspects.

Organisation of Relationships and Sex Education

The R.E. co-ordinator and PSHE co-ordinator work together to ensure children's needs are met, offering help and advice co-ordinating training as appropriate.

Child Protection

Staff are aware of the boundaries of their legal and professional roles / responsibilities. Staff are aware that effective relationship education can lead to a child protection disclosure, and of the procedures such disclosure requires to be followed in line with school policy.

Equal Opportunities

RSE is taught on a class basis and boys/girls are treated with equal respect. Care is taken to ensure that all material used in the delivery of RSE addresses issues of sex, gender and race.

The whole approach to teaching is inclusive of all children.

Our policy for relationships and sex education teaches our children that life is a precious gift from God and supports them in their life journey.

Agreed by Staff and Governors October 2014

Reviewed and updated September 2015

To be reviewed September 2016