



## THE FEDERATION OF ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

### POLICY FOR RSE

#### Our Mission Statement

*As the family of Jesus, we learn and love together.*

#### Rationale

'We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution.

Each of us is the result of a thought of God.'

Benedict XVI

'I have come that they might have life and have it to the fullness.'

John 10:10

Education is about growth and development of the whole human person. It should aim to integrate a pupil's

- Intellectual
- Moral
- Spiritual
- Emotional
- Psychological
- and physical development

And so lead to full Christian maturity, human wholeness and flourishing.

We, as a school community, have a key role in **supporting parents in their primary responsibility** in enabling their children to grow in understanding of human relationships and to educate and inform them in all matters of personal growth and development.

We acknowledge that underpinning all personal, social, health, moral and citizenship education is the central belief in the dignity of each one of us as created and loved by

God and the importance of relationships. RSE encompasses all these aspects of development.

We aim to provide an environment where pupils are informed about relationships **in the context of the Catholic faith.**

### The aims of RSE

- To encourage pupils' growth in self-respect, acknowledging we are all created in the 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, emotions and relationships.
  - To help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships.
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- To ensure that pupils protect themselves and know how to ask for help and support when needed.
  - To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty.
  - To help pupils develop healthy and safe lifestyles.
  - 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 of God.

All staff recognise that they have an obligation in their various roles to contribute to RSE.

RSE requires sensitive teaching with pupil activities, discussions and support materials being well **matched** to the **age** and **level of understanding, needs** and **concerns of the pupils.**

The school's Sex and Relationships Education policy (SRE) sets out guidelines for dealing with questions of a sensitive nature in relation to Sex and Relationship Education and identifies the **specific content to be taught.**

### **The Delivery of Education for Personal Relationships**

Following advice from the Archdiocese our chosen programme for the delivery for RSE is, 'A Journey in Love,' from nursery to Year 6

## **A Journey in Love**

'Love starts to enter our life the moment of birth when we are held tenderly in the arms of our mother and developed through the first intimate relationship of childhood with our parents, family members, friends and teachers. At puberty, the secondary sexual characteristics arise. Now we begin to seek someone from outside our family and, armed with our first relationship, we explore our second intimate relationship of love, usually ending in marriage.

'Parents and teachers are privileged to assist children every moment of their lives to further this link of love with their humanity and thus with God. The programme outlined in a 'Journey in Love,' is a brilliant reconciliation between the human and divine aspects of love and is truly fully Christian in its vision.' (pg.4, A Journey in Love.)

### **Content**

Nursery- Wonder at God's Love

Children begin to know and understand that they are part of the wonder of God's love and creation.

Reception- God loves each of us in our uniqueness.

Children know and understand that God has made them unique and that although we are all different we are special to him.

Year 1- We meet God's love in our family.

Children know and understand that they are growing and developing members of their own family and God's family.

Year 2- We meet God's love in the community

Children know and understand that they are growing and developing in a God-given community.

Year 3- How we live in love

Children know and understand the virtues essential to friendship. Eg. Loyalty, responsibility and so on...and experience the importance both of forgiving and being forgiven and of celebrating God's forgiveness.

Year 4- God loves us in our difference

Children know and understand that they are all different and celebrate their differences as they appreciate that God's love accepts us as we are and as we change.

Year 5 – God loves me in my changing and development.

Children know and become aware of the physical and emotional changes that accompany puberty – sensitivity, mood swings, anger, boredom, etc. and grow further in their understanding of God's presence in their daily lives.

Year 6 – The wonder of God’s love in creating new life.

Children develop, in an appropriate way for their age, an understanding of sexuality and grow further in their appreciation of their dignity and worth as children of God.

RSE is co-ordinated by the **RE Co-ordinator** who is Miss McCormack. The Executive Headteacher, Mrs Dean is responsible for overseeing both curriculum implementation and other elements of school life contributing to RSE. This will include monitoring and evaluating RSE policy and practice.

**Class Teachers** in all subject areas have a key responsibility in the delivery of RSE. 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 imperative that our teaching in this area reflects the doctrine and teaching of the Church, and it is expected that all teachers will treat the issues with the greatest sensitivity while supporting the Catholic principles of the school.

### **Parental consultation**

We will inform parents when aspects of RSE are taught and provides opportunities for parents to come into school and have a meeting with the class teachers, our Executive Headteacher and respective heads of schools.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from those aspects of sex and relationship education, not included in the National Curriculum Science Orders and alternative work will be set.

However this rarely happens, by working in partnership with parents they recognise the importance of this aspect of their child’s education.

### **Child Protection / Confidentiality**

Teachers need to be aware that effective RSE education, brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship and this may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue.

The staff member will inform the Head Teacher /Designated Child Protection person in line with the LEA procedures for child protection.

A member of staff cannot promise confidentiality if concerns exist.

### **Delivery/ Curriculum**

The Sex and Relationships Education Policy is intended to co-ordinate the delivery of appropriate education across the curriculum, with specific reference to the R.E, Science teaching and to the RSE Programme (A journey in love).

- Delivery of appropriate RSE Education is seen as a developmental programme, across the Primary Key Stages, to address issues as appropriate to age and maturity.
- In addition to classroom teaching, additional advice and guidance is available from the Head of school, who oversees the RSE curriculum
- As appropriate, any relevant matters may be referred to the Designated person for safeguarding.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring is the responsibility of the head teacher, named governor and teacher with responsibility for sex and relationship education.

The school will assess the effectiveness of the aims, content and methods in promoting students' learning by lesson observation, sampling teachers planning, questionnaires to teachers and children and feedback from parents.

The effectiveness of the RSE programme will be evaluated by assessing children's learning and implementing change if required.