



Bishop Walsh
Catholic School

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

*Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:1*

Bishop Walsh Catholic School Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Written by Belinda Dunphy	April 2017
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This policy was written using the CES Model Policy for Relationships and Sex Education 2017.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

Safeguarding Policy and Keeping Children Safe in Education Sept 2016

E-Safety Policy

Equal Opportunities Policy

Anti - bullying Policy

Philosophy

Bishop Walsh Catholic School aims to provide an excellent Catholic education encompassing opportunities for spiritual, academic, social and cultural development. We try to value every each individual child and to develop each as fully as possible as a member of our Christian family. At the heart of what we do is our distinctive Catholic ethos which gives our school its special character and purpose. This vision for the school is rooted in the words and actions of Jesus; his greatest commandment being to Love God and your neighbour. Loving God is seen in a pupil's spiritual development. Loving your neighbour as yourself is about our young people's social awareness; with regard to this policy this means forming positive relationships with others and developing a deeper appreciation of what it means to be part of God's family.

Aims of Policy

Our Mission Statement commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, morally, socially, cultural, emotional) and we believe that RSE is an integral part of this education. Furthermore our school aims that we will endeavour to raise pupils' self-esteem. Help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes. It is in this context we commit ourselves:

In partnership with parents , to provide children and young people with a “ positive and prudent sexual education” which is compatible with their physical, cognitive , psychological and spiritual maturity, and rooted in a Catholic vision of education and the human person.

The school's RSE curriculum aims to teach children and young people.

“the correct use of the wonderful gift of human sexuality both as an expression of a conscious and faithful self-giving to another and as an action of such intimacy that it creates human life in partnership with the creator of all.”

Archbishop Vincent Nicholls addressing the Diocesan Conference for Foundation Governors, 2008

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 – in their own person and in the person of others.
- Joy in the goodness of the created world and in their own bodily natures.
- Responsibility for their own actions and recognition of the impact of these on others.
- recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others
- celebrating the gifts 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 which have integrity and which are respectful of the individual's commitments;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying;
- Managing emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, with confidence, sensitivity and dignity;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy and compassion, 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, recognise the influence and impact of the media, internet and peer groups and so developing the ability to assess pressures and respond appropriately;
- being patient, delaying gratification and learning to recognise the appropriate stages in development of relationships, and how to love chastely;
- 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 and the nature and meaning of sexual love;
- The Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- The centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- The physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;
- The facts about human reproduction, how love is expressed sexually and how sexual love plays an essential and sacred role in procreation;
- how to manage fertility in a way which is compatible with their stage of life, their own values and commitments, including and understanding of the difference between natural family planning and artificial contraception;
- How to keep themselves safe from sexually transmitted infections and how to avoid unintended pregnancy, including where to go for advice.

Outcomes

Inclusion and differentiated learning

We will ensure RSE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances; for example their own sexual orientation, faith or culture and is taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequence of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber bullying), use of prejudice – based language and how to respond and ask for help.

Equalities Obligations

The Academy Committee have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that Bishop Walsh Catholic School strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, pregnancy, maternity, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

Statutory obligations

We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSE which are statutory parts of National curriculum Science.

However, the reasons for our inclusion go further.

Rational

“I have come that you might have life and have it to the full.” John 10:10

We are involved in relationships and sex education precisely because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person. The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Our approach to RSE therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church’s teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

At the heart of Christian life is the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit in communion, united in loving relationship and embracing all people and all creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, 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 guidelines of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE RSE will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils. It is centred on Christ’s vision of being human as good news and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

All RSE will be in accordance with the Church’s moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance 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.

Values and virtues

Our programme enshrines Catholic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life. It also promotes those virtues which are essential in responding to God’s call to love others with a proper respect for their dignity and the dignity of the human body. The following virtues will be explicitly explored and promoted: faithfulness, chastity, integrity, prudence, mercy and compassion.

Definitions

The DfE 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 also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health." It is about the development of the pupil's knowledge and understanding of her or him 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.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity. As a Catholic school we acknowledge that we have a particularly significant role to play in this aspect of young people's development.

Roles and responsibilities

Teachers of SRE are governed by the following principles:

SRE at Bishop Walsh School follows the most current DfE guidelines for schools (2000). Three Aspects of RSE – attitudes and values, knowledge and understanding, and personal and social skills will be provided in three inter – related ways; whole school/ ethos dimension, cross curricular and subject specific curriculum. It is delivered through a programme of science, RE and SMSV assemblies with input from such subjects as English, drama, PE, child development. Assemblies have covered such topics as child sexual exploitation delivered by the police and in house, female genital mutilation delivered by an outside speaker, homosexuality/ LGBT and the dangers of social media including cyber bullying.

Programme/ Resources

Teaching strategies will include:

- establishing ground rules
- Discussion
- Reflection
- Experiential
- Active
- brainstorming
- Film and video
- Group work
- Case studies

Balanced Curriculum

Whilst promoting Catholic values and virtues and teaching in accordance with Church teaching, we will ensure that pupils are offered a balanced programme by providing an RSE programme that offers a range of viewpoints on issues. Pupils will also receive clear scientific information as well as covering the aspects of the law pertaining to RSE (in academies relating to forced – marriage, female genital mutilation, abortion, the age of consent and legislation relating to equality.) Knowing about facts and enabling young people to explore different viewpoints is not the same as promoting behaviour and is not incompatible with our school's promotion of Catholic teaching. We will ensure that pupils have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.

Responsibilities

All teachers

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.

- All staff have a responsibility of care to children and young people.
- As well as fostering academic progress they should contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual wellbeing of their pupils.
- Teachers will be expected to teach SRE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school, and all teachers involved in the delivery of SRE at any level should ensure that they are familiar with the teachings of the Catholic Church in relationship to relationships and sex.
- Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching SRE.

Pupils

- Pupils should be willing to listen to the teaching of the Catholic Church and become aware of a variety of other views regarding moral issues related to relationships and sex.
- They will be expected to have concern for, and accept responsibility for their knowledge and understanding of their sexual development.
- Pupils should feel able to ask questions.
- Pupil should feel comfortable to access the school nurse if they need.

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 will provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children. Therefore the school will support parents and carers in every way we can.

Information evenings at different key stages give information about the content and resources used with different year groups, and this is a further opportunity to examine the programme of study and address any questions or issues. For example in the Religious Education scheme of work, as in most subjects, pupils are given a detailed sheet to stick in their book outlining what each topic is about so parents can also see what is being taught.

Parental representation on the Academy Committee have been consulted before this policy was ratified by the Academy Committee so that they have full confidence in the school's RSE programme to meet their child's needs.

Parents will be encouraged to talk to their children at school and listen to their questions and thoughts. The key purpose of this policy statement is to reassure parents that the school's RSE programme will compliment and support their role as parents. However, parents have the right to withdraw their child from some, or all, SRE lessons, except those that are required by the National Curriculum science orders. Should parents wish to withdraw their child they are asked to notify the school by contacting the Principal. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning.

We believe the controlled environment of the classroom is the safest place for this curriculum to be followed.

Academy Representatives

- Draw up the RSE policy, in consultation with parents and teachers;
- Ensure that the policy is available to parents;
- Ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies
- Ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children;
- Establish a link Academy Representative to share in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, including resources used;
- Ensure that the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum science topics and the setting of RSE within PSHE

Principal

The Principal takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Academy Committee, parents, the Diocesan Schools' Service and the Local education Authority, also appropriate agencies.

PSHE/RSE Co – coordinator

The co – coordinator with the Principal has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RSE and the provision of in – service training.

Other stakeholders – 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. It is important that any external visitor is clear about their role and responsibility whilst they are in school delivering a session. Any visitor must adhere to our code of practice developed in line with CES guidance, "Protocol for Visitors to Catholic Schools." Health professionals should follow the school's policies, minimising the potential for disclosures or inappropriate comments using negotiated ground rules and distancing techniques as other teachers would. They will ensure that all teaching is rooted in Catholic principles and practice.

Confidentiality

All Academy Representatives, all teachers, all support staff, all parents and all pupils must be made aware of this policy, particularly as it relates to issues of advice and confidentiality.

All lessons, especially those in the RSE programme, will have the best interests of the pupils at heart, enabling them to grow in knowledge and understanding of relationships and sex, developing appropriate personal and social skills and becoming appreciative of the values and attitudes which underpin the Christian understanding of what it means to be fully human.

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 policy. Teachers should explain to the pupils that they cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, in matters which are illegal or abusive for instance. Teachers will explain that in such circumstances they would have to inform others e.g. parents, DSL, Principal, but that the pupils would always be informed first that such action was going to be taken.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RSE Co – coordinator will monitor the provision of the various dimensions of the programme by examining plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils work at regular intervals. The programme will be evaluated every two years by a variety of means including questionnaires, discussion with pupils, staff and parents. The Academy Committee will consider these evaluations and any suggestions made for improvements before amending the policy. The Academy Committee remains ultimately responsible for the policy.

B. Dunphy April 2107