



## **Sex and Relationships Education Policy**

**Drafted by:** The Governors' Policy Working Group

**Approved by Governors on:** September 2009

**Reviewed:** July 2012

**Next Review:** To be determined by the Headteacher and Governing Body

**Person (position, not name) to perform review:** The Governing Body

**This policy should be read in conjunction with all other policies and not as a standalone policy**

### **Reasons for this policy**

As a Catholic School we understand that all our pupils are of intrinsic and absolute value as they are created by God and in the image of God. With this at the centre of all our teaching, and in particular our Sex and Relationship Education (SRE), we aim to make our teaching holistic and fitting to the needs of the pupils.

### **Church Teaching**

The SRE programme is underpinned by the following Church teachings:

- The dignity and worth of each person made in the image of God.
- The importance of individuals coming together in mutual support and regard, to live and work for the good of humankind and the glory of God.

### **Statutory Requirements**

Statutory requirements for sex education are set out in the DfE's guidance booklet entitled 'Sex and Relationships Education'. The law requires that maintained secondary schools teach sex education, human growth and reproduction, including education about HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

### **Aims**

SRE aims to meet these requirements while also encouraging pupils to consider the views of the Roman Catholic Church and the value of the human person.

The key aim of the programme is to provide a teaching that is founded on Roman Catholic understanding of the human person and an appreciation that authentic human love is more than sexual expression, for the human person is made in the image and likeness of God and this dignity is inalienable.

To achieve these aims, this school incorporates in its general curriculum appropriate teaching on matters of human love, the functions of the body and an understanding of God's creative love as embodied in human



reproduction, at a level suitable to the growing child at various stages of development. A significant principle in this teaching finds its fullest and most appropriate expression inside marriage. Sex education as such is not a subject in itself on the curriculum. However, there will be from time to time, specific classes devoted to various aspects of sex education in a variety of subjects.

Moral teaching on relationships and sexual behaviour will be covered from the Catholic point of view, showing sensitivity to other loving relationships. The R.E. department may take special initiatives in this area, in liaison with such areas as PSHE, Science and Physical Education.

Questions will arise in a wide variety of topics. Teachers are asked to answer questions honestly, taking care that, especially in the case of younger pupils, answers are simple and straightforward and do not give rise to confusion or anxiety. All pupils will be encouraged to refer to their parents for further information and, should it be thought necessary by the Headteacher, parents may be contacted.

### **Approach**

- We, as a Catholic community, consider one of the greatest services we can offer our pupils is to help them form happy, lasting and fulfilling personal relationships.
- We hope to do this in partnership with the parents and ideally we do. But experience indicates that for many reasons some parents find it difficult to help their own children in certain areas. For some of the pupils we are the only people who will ever give them direct, honest, unbiased and sound advice – and these are very often the pupils most in need of such advice.
- We recognise that this type of education calls for great prudence, sensitivity and respect for the pupils themselves. Sometimes we will make mistakes but we do not feel it right to shirk our responsibilities just because we cannot guarantee meeting everyone's needs perfectly.
- One major challenge we face is that in any group with whom we might be dealing there will be a wide range of knowledge, experience and outlook. Young people in the same age range vary enormously in their emotional, moral and religious development. Their family backgrounds and upbringing are very different.
- Nonetheless, we believe that the Christian values we teach them can bring them joy, freedom from many worries, and ultimately will help them form true, lasting and deeply happy relationships.



- We believe we are serving them by showing them how to live out Christ's call to 'love one another'.

### **Principles**

- We are all made in the image of God. God is love – so our vocation is to love as Christ has taught us.
- Our bodies, our emotions, our sexuality are good.
- The keys to any worthwhile relationship are honesty and good communication.
- We should only completely give ourselves bodily to the person we completely love.
- Marriage is therefore the most appropriate relationship for the full use of the gift of sexuality.
- It is important to acknowledge to the pupils that we are all human and therefore make mistakes; and that God is quicker to forgive us than we are ourselves.

This policy should be read in conjunction particularly with Anti-bullying, Equal Opportunity policies and Pupil Code of Conduct.