



# **ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Love Jesus



Love Learning

Love Life

## **Sex & Relationships Education Policy**

### **Mission Statement**

As a Catholic School it is our mission to provide a safe caring environment in which to educate our children to lead full lives as Christians; to instil a love of learning, of self and of others; enabling all to recognise their God given gifts and to realise their potential.

Adopted by Standards & Pupils Committee 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Review date Summer Term 2018

## **Rationale**

“I have come that you might have life and have it to the full”  
(John.10.10)

Stemming from our vision of what it means to be human, we seek to educate the whole person: spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally, psychologically, and physically towards Christian maturity.

In response to the exhortation of the Bishops of England and Wales we recognize our role in Sex and Relationship education.

We acknowledge the need to address issues raised by the actual experience of pupils today.

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

We acknowledge our responsibility to support parents in the Sex Education of their children.

## **Aims of SRE**

- ❖ 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 and respect are central to the basis of relationships.
- ❖ To develop self respect and empathy for others.
- ❖ To learn the value of family life, marriage and stable and loving relationships for the nurture of children.
- ❖ To develop pupils' confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.
- ❖ To learn to sustain relationships through managing emotions confidently and sensitively.

- ❖ To offer sex education in the wider context of relationships.
- ❖ To encourage children to take care of their bodies properly in terms of hygiene, diet and physical well being.
- ❖ To ensure that pupils learn that certain words and actions are inappropriate.
- ❖ To help pupils develop an understanding of physical changes in their bodies during puberty.

## **Delivery of SRE**

SRE is taught through:

A Programme entitled ‘A Journey in Love’ by Sr Jude Groden, published by McCrimmons. In this programme “ An aspect of the mystery of love is treated in each year group; children and young people are encouraged to marvel at the wonder and beauty of God’s creative love.” The resource is based on Catholic teaching and has canonical permission from Bishop Thomas McMahon.

Puberty and human reproduction are covered in a particular part of the programme taught in years 5 and 6.

Aspects of human development are also covered in RE and Science as well as other areas of the curriculum by way of a cross curricular, integrated approach. All elements of PSHE and Citizenship, whilst non-statutory at Key Stage 1 and 2, are covered.

All staff realise the obligation to deliver SRE in their role as class teachers. Staff also recognise the need for close co-operation with each other and other subject areas in order to ensure an holistic approach to SRE.

We recognise that SRE requires sensitive teaching which is matched in particular by the specific needs and concerns of pupils. Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in SRE and careful consideration will need to be given to the inevitable wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in the class. All teachers involved in SRE are encouraged to be sensitive, credible and consistent. To this end the school will endeavor to ensure that all staff have appropriate training and support to deliver.

## **The Governing Body**

The Governing Body and foundation Governors in particular recognize their responsibility to ensure the SRE programme follows Diocesan guidelines and reflects the Church's teaching. Consideration has also been given to the DfEE guidance document Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (ref DfEE 0116/2000).

## **The Role of Parents**

“The Church has always recognised that it is the privilege and the 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 education and sexual development. The Church also recognises that many parents require help and support in this task from both schools and parishes.” (*Bishops' Conference Low Week Meeting 1994*)

The Governing Body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishops' Conference. The Governors will always strive to ensure that:

- Parents are supported in their task.
- Parents are kept informed of the SRE Programme and any subsequent development.
- Parents are informed of their right to withdraw their child from aspects of Sex Education.

## **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed every three years

## **THE DIOCESE OF PLYMOUTH**

### **Child Protection**

As Roman Catholics we believe that human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative act of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with him. Accordingly, we recognize that each human being, irrespective of age or circumstance, should be accorded the dignity and respect due to a child of God. In particular we recognize the personal dignity and rights of children towards whom we have a special responsibility and a duty of care. As individuals we undertake to do all in our power to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse of children and young people but, if we have reason to suspect that abuse has been perpetrated, we undertake to report our concerns to the appropriate authority. The designated person for Child Protection is Mr Gill