



ST AIDAN'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Relationships Health and Sex Education (RHSE) Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

"Learning and growing together; inspired by the love of Jesus."

Our belief in the unique dignity of the human person as made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in our school. Our approach to Relationship and Sex Education, therefore, is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and is presented positively.

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

Following guidance from our own Bishop and Diocese, the Conference of Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE, all Relationship and Sex Education in our school is firmly embedded in the Religious Education framework as it is concerned primarily with nurturing the human wholeness of our pupils.

All Relationship and Sex Education is in accordance with the Church's moral teaching. It acknowledges that all children have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from and support is provided to help children deal with different sets of values.

Aims of Relationship Health and Sex Education (RHSE)

- To encourage children's growth in self-respect, acknowledging we are all created in the image and likeness of God.
- To help children develop an understanding that love is the central basis of relationships.
- To help children to understand the nature of relationships and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people.
- To develop children's confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.
- To help children acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships.
- To offer sex education in the wider context of relationships.
- To ensure that children protect themselves and ask for help and support when needed. To ensure that children are prepared for puberty.
- To help children to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle.
- To prepare children 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.

Delivery of RSHE

Relationships, Sex and Health Education is taught through our life style in school and through the subjects of Religious Education, Science, PSHE and by way of a cross-

curricular, integrated approach as a fundamental part of the Catholic Life of the school. All elements of PSHE and Citizenship, whilst non-statutory at Key Stage 1 and 2, are covered. Significant aspects of Relationship and Sex Education remain part of the National Curriculum for Science. These will be taught to all pupils. (Parents are unable to withdraw pupils from such lessons.)

Key Stage 1 (5-7)

- That humans move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce;
- To name the main external parts of the body;
- That humans grow from babies into children and then into adults, and that adults can produce babies;
- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and other pupils

Key Stage 2 (7 – 11)

- That the life processes common to humans and all animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction
- The main stages of the human life cycle.

We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to Relationships and Sex Education as the school, of its very nature operates through positive human relationships. We recognise, value and greatly appreciate the contribution made by all members of staff in deepening the quality of our Christian community. 5 Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in Relationships and Sex Education. Careful consideration will be given to the wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in their care. While we operate a whole school approach to Relationship and Sex Education through our RSE Programme, pupils in Year Four will learn about the emotional and the physical changes of puberty. For this particular part of the curriculum, children will be taught together. A similar approach will operate in Year Six when pupils will cover the life cycle and sexual intercourse.

Resources

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the key people for teaching children about relationships and sex. Our role in school is simply to complement this by nurturing their children's human wholeness. We use the following curriculum resource as advised by the Archdiocese to support this: 'A Journey in Love', a resource for teachers focusing on personal, social and spiritual education.

Assessment Recording and Reporting

The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the co-ordinator in accordance with the school's monitoring and assessment policy. Children are given the opportunity for self-evaluation at an appropriate level for each year group. Reporting is made in individual children's reports.

Outside Agencies

The expertise of outside agencies may be used appropriately to support but not at the expense of the school's delivery. The school is particularly thankful of the help available from local diocesan agencies and charities such as Nugent.

Curriculum Continuity

Our RSHE teaching is complemented by several other curriculum subjects and policies in schools. It has significant links with Science, RE and PE. It contributes to the policies of SMSC, PSHE, Equalities and Behaviour.

Safeguarding Procedures

We have procedures to deal with any sensitive issues or to support children thought to be vulnerable. Staff are trained to pass on any concerns of this nature to the designated safeguarding lead in school.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body recognises its responsibility to ensure the RSE programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church's teaching.

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

- Parents are supported in their task.
- Parents are consulted and kept informed of the RSE Programme and its contents.

Right of Withdrawal

It is our hope that parents would wish their children to be involved in the schools positive and prudent programme of Relationship and Sex Education, following annual consultation regarding the school's approach. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from such lessons (not included in National Curriculum Science) after discussion with the Headteacher.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored annually by the RHSE Co-ordinator and will be reviewed annually by the Governing body.