

St Bernadette's Relationship and Sex Education Policy

School Mission Statement

At St Bernadette's Catholic School you will find us caring, hardworking and co-operative. We follow the ways of Jesus using our talents and gifts to make our school special. We show respect to all and welcome you.

Background

Catholic Schools are required to deliver Relationships and Sex Education in accordance with the teaching of the church and RSE is part of the mission of Catholic Schools to educate the whole person.

In this policy the Governors and teachers, in partnership with pupils and their parents set out their intentions about relationships and sex education. The scheme we use 'Created and Loved by God, has been shared with parents who are the primary educators and their views have been gathered from a parent questionnaire. The scheme aims to provide a positive view of human sexuality, in an age appropriate way, which reflects the development of the child.

Definition of Relationship and Sex Education

The Department of Education defines RSE as 'lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding 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.

Statutory Requirements

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

Rationale

We are involved in relationships and sex education because of our Christian beliefs. As Christians we believe that each person is made in the image and likeness of God and our approach to RSE reflects this, thus gender and sexuality are seen as God's gift and it is from strong relationships that sexuality grows and develops.

All RSE will be in accordance with the Church's moral teaching. It will emphasise the importance of marriage and the family, whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from.

The programme reflects Catholic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life.

Aims of RSE

To develop the following attitudes

- Recognising the importance of marriage and family life.
- Responsibility for their own actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others.
- Fidelity in relationships
- Recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others.
- Respect for the dignity of every human being.

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, the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying.
- Managing emotions within relationships.
- Developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others.
- Building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures, recognising the influence and impact of the media, internet and peer groups and so developing the ability to assess pressures and respond appropriately.

To know and understand

- The Church's teaching on relationships and meaning of sexual love.
- The Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life.
- The physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty.
- The facts about human relationships, how love is expressed sexually and how sexual love plays an essential role in procreation.

Inclusion

We will ensure RSE is sensitive to the different needs of the individual pupils in respect to different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances; for example their own sexual orientation, faith or culture. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequence of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviour.

Parents and Carers

We recognise that parents are the primary educators of their children. The school will support parents and carers by providing material that can be shared with their children at home. Parents/carers will be informed by letter when the more sensitive aspects of RSE will be covered so they can talk and answer questions about their children's learning.

Parents will be consulted at every stage of the development of the RSE programme. They will be able to view the resources used by the school. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RSE except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science orders or the statutory requirements of the RSE Curriculum as defined by the Department for Education.

Responsibility for Teaching the programme

All staff will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspect of the RSE programme. Responsibility for the specific relationships and sex education programme lay with the science, RE and PSHE leads in school.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governors

- Devise the RSE policy and consult with parents and teachers.
- Ensure the policy is available to parents.
- Ensure parents know of their right to withdraw children.
- Establish a link Governor to share in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme.
- Ensure the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of National Curriculum Science topics.

Head Teacher

- Takes overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy.

PSHE/RSE Lead

- Supports staff in the implementation of the Policy, providing appropriate in-service training.

Staff

- Will teach RSE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RSE.

Controversial or Sensitive Issues

There will always be sensitive or controversial issues in the field of RSE and aspects raised which may disagree with the official teaching of the Church. The Governors believe that children are best educated by discussing such issues opening within the context of the RSE programme.

All lessons will have the best interests of 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.

Monitoring and Evaluations

The RSE co-ordinator will monitor the provision of the programme and will notify the Head Teacher of any amendments which may need to take place.

