

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

At St Joseph's we work, learn and grow together guided by Jesus' teachings



CRC Article 29(goals of education)

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Introduction

As a Catholic School we recognise the responsibility to provide children with accurate information about health related matters, whilst enabling their development as happy, autonomous, self-reliant, self-directing young people.

We will provide a curriculum in relationships and sex education that is authentic to the Catholic Church's teaching and acknowledges each pupil's stage of physical development. Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is lifelong learning about physical, moral, social and emotional development. It is the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. The DFE guidance 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"

Context

Our ethos is to educate our children with Christ at the centre; therefore all that we teach is focused upon Catholic values and morals. We recognise each of our pupils as unique individuals, created in the image and likeness of God and our curriculum reflects the Gospel values of our faith. This is integral to teaching the Christian values, and is taught in the context of Christian relationships and virtues.

RSE promotes children's self-esteem and emotional wellbeing. It helps them to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, at school and in the community. The school

shares, with parents, the responsibility to provide positive and prudent relationships and sex education. We believe that it is essential that parents are actively involved and engaged in the teaching of RSE to their children.

Aims

'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full'. (Jn.10.10)

Within a Catholic context, the purpose for teaching RSE is:

- To develop an understanding of our relationship with God and one another and how we live our lives to promote loving and meaningful relationships.
- To engender growth in self-respect and self-worth recognising that each of us is created in the image and likeness of God.
- To understand that relationships are based upon love, trust and faith.
- To show an understanding that we are all made in the image of God but that we must develop and sustain meaningful, lasting relationships.
- Enable children to have an understanding of themselves, their bodies and their emotional development.
- Enable children to grow in understanding of family life as an important and special gift from God.
- Enable children to develop skills which enable them to live as an important and special gift from God.
- Enable children to develop skills which will enable them to live in families and other social groups as a response to their commitment to Christ.
- Enable children to learn skills which help them form friendships and relationships.

Teaching and Learning

RSE is delivered through the diocesan recommended Scheme of Work 'All that I am' and a commercially produced Catholic scheme called 'A Journey in Love' which runs from Nursery to Year 6. Delivery of RSE is the responsibility of the class teacher. However outside agencies, e.g. the school nurse, may also have an input, although always in line with our school ethos and Catholic teaching. Parents are asked to support the teaching at home.

The 'All that I am' scheme is used within Year 5 and Year 6, units include:

- Physical
- Spiritual
- Emotional
- Social

A Journey in Love provides units connected to Physical, Social, Intellectual and Spiritual aspects of RSE for each year group:

Nursery – Wonder at God's Love

Reception – God loves each of us in our uniqueness

Year 1 – We meet God’s love in our family

Year 2 – We meet God’s love in the community

Year 3 – How we love in love

Year 4 – God loves us in our differences

Year 5 – God loves me in my changing and development

Year 6 – The wonder of God’s love in creating new life

Audit Tool for Catholic Primary RSE Curriculum

Other aspects identified in the Audit Tool for Catholic Primary RSE Curriculum which are not covered by ‘All that I am’ or ‘A Journey in Love’ are signposted in our completed audit tool document.

Inclusion

Christ’s command ‘Love one another as I have loved you’, is the key and foundation for human and spiritual fulfilment and happiness. 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.

Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help. Children may have varying needs regarding RSE depending on their circumstances and background. The school strongly believes that all pupils should have access to RSE that is relevant to their particular needs.

Different ethnic and cultural groups may have different attitudes to RSE. The school will consult with all pupils and parents/carers about their needs, take account of their views and promote respect for, and understanding of, the views of different ethnic and cultural groups.

We recognise that our pupils may come from a variety of family situations and home backgrounds. We shall take care to ensure that there is no stigmatisation of children based on their home circumstances.

Our approach to RSE will include sensitive, honest and balanced consideration of sexuality.

We shall take account of the fact that some pupils may have learning, emotional or behavioural difficulties or physical disabilities that result in particular RSE needs. We have a commitment to ensuring that all pupils will have equal access to the RSE

curriculum, following guidelines in the SEN, Equal Opportunities and Inclusion policies.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the RSE at school, except for those parts included in the National Curriculum Science programmes of study. In such cases, parents must notify the school. Where relevant, parents meetings will be held prior to any potentially sensitive RSE curriculum content being delivered.

Legal Requirement of RSE

These areas are compulsory in the National Curriculum Science programmes of study at KS1 & 2.

At KS1, pupils are taught:

- That animals including humans move, feed, grow, use of senses and reproduce
- To recognise and compare the main external parts of the body of humans
- That humans can produce babies and that these grow into adults
- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others, and treat others with sensitivity.

At KS2 pupils are taught:

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

Sensitivity

We aim to provide accurate factual information about the physical and emotional changes that take place at puberty. Both boys and girls are given a basic knowledge of what happens to each gender. We also explain that it is normal for everyone to develop at different rates.

We provide accurate information about menstruation in Y6. Sensitive arrangements are organised to prepare the girls for teaching about menstruation. Sanitary facilities are available on request. Staff are prepared to deal with requests for sanitary towels in a helpful manner and without embarrassment.

Boys and girls will be taught in the same sex groups. Teachers will handle with sensitivity any explicit or difficult questions. They need not be answered directly and can be answered individually later or referred to the parents/carers. All teaching in relation to sexuality, personal responsibility and the dignity of the individual, will be encompassed within the moral framework, spirituality and teaching of the Catholic Church.

Confidentiality

Some pupils may choose to mention specific problems or individual issues involving themselves or members of the school community. While staff will want to be supportive, it is made clear to all staff they work within child protection guidelines (see Child Protection policy) and therefore must state to their pupils that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality when the well-being and safety of a child may be at risk.

February 2018

To be reviewed bi-annually