



## **Relationships and Sex Education Policy September 2023**

"Frequently, sex education deals primarily with 'protection' through the practice of 'safe sex'. Such expressions convey a negative attitude towards the natural procreative finality of sexuality, as if an eventual child were an enemy to be protected against.... It is always irresponsible to invite adolescents to toy with their bodies and their desires, as if they possessed the maturity, values, mutual commitment and goals proper to marriage. They end up being blithely encouraged to use other persons as a means of fulfilling their needs or limitations"

*The Joy of Love  
Pope Francis 2016*



## Rationale

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

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

We acknowledge that PSHE and Citizenship as well as Relationship and Sex Education are all underpinned by a theology of relationship and so are all encompassed in the title ‘Education for Personal Relationships’.

In response to the exhortation of the Bishops of England and Wales we recognise our important role in Relationship and Sex Education.

We acknowledge the need to address issues raised by the actual experience of pupils today. We seek to provide an environment where students are informed about relationships in the context of the Catholic faith.

## Aims

- ❖ To encourage students growth in self-respect, acknowledging we are all created in the likeness of God.
- ❖ To help students develop an understanding that love is the central basis of relationships.
- ❖ To help students recognise what a ‘good’ relationship is.
- ❖ To help students to understand the nature of relationships and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people.
- ❖ To develop students confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.
- ❖ To help students acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships
- ❖ To promote Roman Catholic teaching in the family.
- ❖ To offer sex education in the wider context of relationships.
- ❖ To offer support to students who find themselves in difficult relationships and circumstances.
- ❖ To ensure that students are prepared for puberty and have adequate support through this time.
- ❖ To help students to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle.
- ❖ To prepare students 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.



## Objectives

- ❖ To offer an acceptable vocabulary and means of expression that can be used without embarrassment to facilitate dialogue with students about their current understanding and concerns in sexual matters.
- ❖ To develop a deeper awareness of human fertility, the constant fertility of the male and the cyclical fertility of the female accompanied by the associated emotional changes.
- ❖ To promote an awareness and positive acceptance by each student of their own sexuality and the sexuality of others, thus minimising unfounded feelings of anxiety or guilt.
- ❖ To promote responsible sexual behaviour based on a deep respect for the integrity of sexual intimacy, which involves human beings at their most vulnerable, and promotes the well being of the individuals involved.
- ❖ To enable young people to make informed decisions by helping them to determine their own values within the positive moral framework offered by the Roman Catholic church, while being aware of the negative pressures from other sources and how best to cope with them.
- ❖ To combat sexual exploitation and the misuse of sex both for commercial profit and in personal relationships by highlighting the positive as well as drawing attention to the negative aspects of human sexuality.
- ❖ To highlight the dangers of sex and social media exploring the criminal, personal and emotional implications of sexting and distribution of images using technology.
- ❖ To encourage a careful consideration of the biological principles and theological arguments behind the Church's teaching on contraception and family planning.
- ❖ To develop some understanding and give sensitive consideration to the beliefs and cultures of others with regard to sex and in particular to help with a careful consideration of homosexuality with reference to the church's teaching.
- ❖ To develop a knowledge and understanding of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and the possible long-term health effects of sexual behaviour.
- ❖ To promote aspirational goals within life in career and family planning.

## Curricular Planning, Learning and Teaching Strategies

RSE is a whole school responsibility and will be taught across whole school and promoted by all staff. Assemblies will promote positive relationships and highlight safe use of the internet.

Pupils will be taught sex education through the curriculum in all subjects and PSHE lessons. The RSE co-ordinator will work with the PSHE co-ordinator to support planning and delivery of RSE across the curriculum to ensure it is in line with Catholic teaching and meeting DFE requirements.



In line with the college Mission Statement The aim is to “Inspire each other to grow in Faith, Hope and Love” according to the ideals of St John Bosco which demand respect and dignity for all. Therefore, Relationship and Sex Education will be taught with these principles that also include Catholic teachings.

### **Inclusion and Equal Opportunities**

All students must be offered access to the entire content of the sex education programme. This must complete the requirements set by of the DFE and Archdiocese of Liverpool (CES). Whilst the teaching approach and resources used for sex education classes may change due to age or setting, the content should remain complete.

As a maintained secondary school we must provide RSE to all pupils as per the Children and Social work act 2017. In teaching RSE, we must have regard to to guidance issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the Education Act 1996.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the non-statutory components of sex education within RSE up to 3 terms before the child turns 16. Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the headteacher.

A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the pupil’s educational record. The headteacher will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

### **Appropriate Teaching and Learning Styles**

- ❖ Provide opportunities for students to contribute orally to class discussions, respond to questioning, and express themselves.
- ❖ Take opportunities to discuss sex - stereotyping as the issue arises.
- ❖ Employ a wide variety of teaching and learning styles suitable for pupils of all abilities.
- ❖ Provide positive images of people of different race, colour, cultural or social background, and those with learning or physical disability.
- ❖ Promote positive relationships at any opportunity.
- ❖ Take opportunities to discuss the reasons for discrimination and prejudice due to sex, colour, race, physical handicap etc. as they arise.

### **Learning Environment and Resources**

Classroom materials, videos, posters, textbooks etc. should reflect this equal opportunities policy by ensuring that sexist views about adult roles in the home and society are not reinforced. All resources used will be in line with Catholic Church teaching.



## **Arrangements for Monitoring, Evaluating and Reporting Effectiveness of the Curriculum**

Subject Leader for RE will monitor the teaching of Relationship and Sex Education in the college in line with the requirements of the CSI inspection.