



Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Date approved: October 2015
Signed by Chair of Governors: Mr Paul Rossi

A white rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "P. Rossi".

Date approved: October 2015
Signed by Headteacher: Mr Sean Hayes

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St John Fisher
Catholic High School

Policy and Procedures

Sex and Relationship Education Policy

This policy statement should be read in conjunction with the School's Mission Statement and Equal Opportunities policy. This policy which is the result of consultations with staff, parents and governors, was developed during the Autumn Term 2009 and takes into account the Catholic Education Service "Education in Sexuality", The New Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Catholic Education Service "Education for Love", the Archdiocese of Salford's SRE programme and the Archdiocese of Birmingham's "All That I Am" programme and the government recommendations made by the SRE review group (www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications), DCSF (2000) SRE Guidance (www.dcsf.gov.uk) and the Peterborough Toolkit for the Development of SRE in Schools (2009).

INTRODUCTION

Sex and Relationship Education is a statutory part of the curriculum for all students in Years 7 to 13 and takes place within the spiritual and moral context of the Roman Catholic tradition.

AIMS

Through the sex and relationship education programme we aim to:

- Give students accurate and relevant factual information regarding their own and other's sexuality.
- Enable students to develop an understanding of the emotional, moral, spiritual, social and personal aspects of human sexuality.
- Enable the students to understand and appreciate the fundamental Christian values of the sacredness of life and of their own worth made in the image and likeness of God.
- Encourage students to develop a positive attitude towards sexuality as a God-given gift and a respect for their bodies and those of others.
- Encourage personal responsibility in relationships.
- Educate students about their legal rights and responsibilities with regard to sexuality.
- Develop student's ability to make informed and responsible decisions.
- Enable students to develop a knowledge and understanding of the Church's teachings on sexuality, marriage and family life.
- Offer students an opportunity to explore their views and those of others.
- To ensure that students are safe from Child Sexual Exploitation and Female Genital Mutilation.

EDUCATIONAL AND THEOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION

The Church and the State recognise the central and primary role of parents in assisting their children's physical and spiritual growth in preparation for the challenges and responsibilities of adult sexual life. While parents are acknowledged as being primary educators, they are seen to entrust their children into the care of teachers who are, by law, "in loco parentis".

Catholic schools have an obligation to educate the young to live in this world in such a way that they can gradually grow more strongly in wholeness which is true holiness.

The whole educational process in a Catholic school is more than just the acquisition of knowledge and academic success. It is the growth of the full community of the faithful in God. It should be, as

Christ was, a light to the world. It cannot do this unless it educates the young in social, moral and spiritual values through its programme of education in personal relationships, of which sex education is a part.

The Catholic School should present a vision of sexuality that sees it as part of our basic humanity - as part of our giftedness as human beings. Sexuality is intrinsic to the human person. It should therefore be presented in a positive light.

DELIVERY OF SEX EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Core

Core Sex and Relationship education is taught throughout the school as part of the 'Personal Wellbeing' strand of PSHE. In Years 9, 10 and 11, it is delivered by RE teachers and Catholic teachers within PSHE lessons. In Years 7 and 8 it is delivered by a PSHE teacher but overseen by a Catholic teacher. In Years 12 and 13 as part of the retreat programme, by RE teachers, SRE is enriched by RE lessons. As a Catholic School we follow the national programme for Catholic schools, written by the Archdiocese of Salford, which is a comprehensive programme from the perspective of the Roman Catholic Church. The programme caters for Years 7-13 and encompasses the personal, social and spiritual dimension of relationships and supports students in their exploration of the world, life and the future in a holistic way.

All staff have a role in the implementation of the Policy and must be aware of the implications of this document. The programme takes into account the age and needs of the students at each stage and includes

- Physical aspects
- Emotional aspects
- Spiritual aspects
- Moral aspects
- Legal aspects

within a climate which enables students to explore and reflect on complex issues and to appreciate the compassion of Christ.

Further details of the programme are available from the Head of RE. In delivering a Sex and Relationship education programme we work in partnership with parents in guiding and supporting the development of the young people entrusted to us.

Enrichment

The programme is enriched in RE through various units where relationships are explored. The GCSE RE course followed also enriches the programme in the units on Marriage and The family and Matters of Life and Death.

The Big Picture

Personal wellbeing is an essential whole school responsibility and positive, healthy relationships (friendships and how we relate to one another) are encouraged across school every day and through our assemblies and Liturgies. Many other curriculum areas enrich personal wellbeing and SRE. Science, RE, PE, Child Development play key roles.

Outside Speakers/Agencies

All relevant outside speakers and agencies sign a contract before coming in to ensure the school is clear and the speaker is clear about exactly what is to be delivered. An initial meeting takes place between the speaker and the school. This works well as everybody is clear about what can and can't be taught. The school has a good relationship with outside agencies and works in partnership with our school nursing service and PCSOs.

When working with visiting speakers St John Fisher has a responsibility to ensure that both the content and practice accord with school policy. It is important that:

- The session should be planned in discussion with the Head of PSHE, the Assistant Headteacher for Catholic Ethos or Deputy Head and the Head of RE, where appropriate.
- A clear brief must be given to the speaker, with a copy of the School's Mission Statement and appropriate policies, along with information about the target group and curriculum context.
- Follow up and evaluation of the input with students should be planned at the time of booking.
- A member of staff should be present at the talk (usually the class teacher or tutor) to monitor the appropriateness of the content and support the visitor by ensuring management of student behaviour and continuity of the programme.
- Any leaflets or other materials to be given out to students or used in the classroom should be seen by the Assistant Headteacher Catholic Ethos or Deputy Head and used only with permission.

Inclusion

SRE is available for all groups of students, including students with special needs and where English is not the first language. Through differentiation and liaison with the Inclusion department, all SRE should be accessible.

Recommended by Governors Personnel Committee held: 2015

Review Date: October 2019

Approved by the Governors Personnel Committee: February 2017

Staff Member Responsible: Deputy Headteacher