

# St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School



## **RELATIONSHIP SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION POLICY March 2021**

**Live Love Learn**

### **Rationale**

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

We are involved in Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) precisely because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person. The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Our approach to RSHE therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

At the heart of the Christian life is the Trinity; Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in loving relationship and embracing all people and all creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God's gift, reflect God's beauty, and share in the divine creativity. RSHE, therefore, will be placed firmly within the context of relationship as it is there that sexuality grows and develops.

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE (and the Welsh Assembly Government) RSHE will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and

integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils. It is centred on Christ's vision of being human as good news and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

All RSHE will be in accordance with the Church's moral teaching. It will emphasise the central 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. It will also prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

## VALUES AND VIRTUES

Our programmes Come and See and Journey In Love enshrines Catholic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life. It also promotes those virtues which are essential in responding to the God's call to love others with a proper respect for their dignity and the dignity of the human body. The following virtues will be explicitly explored and promoted: faithfulness, fruitfulness, chastity, integrity, prudence, mercy and compassion.

## AIM OF RSHE AND THE MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural, emotional) and we believe that RSHE is an integral part of this education. Furthermore, our school aims state that we will endeavour to raise pupils' self-esteem, help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes. It is in this context that we commit ourselves in partnership with parents, to provide children and young people with a "positive and prudent sexual education" which is compatible with their physical, cognitive, psychological, and spiritual maturity, and rooted in a Catholic vision of education and the human person.

## **Objectives**

To develop the following **attitudes and virtues**:

- reverence for the gift of human sexuality and fertility;
- respect for the dignity of every human being – in their own person and in the person of others;
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures;
- responsibility for their own actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others;
- celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life;
- fidelity in relationships.

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, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying;
- managing emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, with confidence, sensitivity and dignity;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy and compassion, learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- 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;

- learning to recognise the appropriate stages in the development of relationships;
- assessing risks and managing behaviours in order to minimise the risk to health and personal integrity.

**To know and understand:**

- the Church's teaching on relationships and the nature and meaning of sexual love;
- the Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;
- the facts about human reproduction, how sexual love is expressed and how love plays an essential and sacred role in procreation;

**Resources**

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the key persons for children learning about Relationship, Sex and Health Education. Our role and our programme simply complement their role in nurturing their children's human wholeness. However, the role of parents and our day to day interactions in school are currently supported by the following curriculum resources: *Come and See and Journey In Love*.

**Assessment Recording and Reporting**

A record is kept in teacher's planning of the delivery of Relationships and Sex Education. The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the co-ordinator in accordance with the school's monitoring and evaluation policy. Pupils are given the opportunity for self-evaluation at an appropriate

level for each year group. Reporting is made in individual pupil's reports under 'General Development'.

### **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**

The school has an ongoing dialogue with the PSHE Co-ordinator of St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School; Relationships and Sex Education, RE, Collective Worship, Spiritual, Moral and PSHE policies complement each other as appropriate.

### **Safeguarding Procedures**

The school has procedures to deal with any sensitive issues or children thought to be vulnerable. Staff will pass on any concerns of this nature to the designated child protection officer in school.

### **The Governing Body**

The Governing body and Foundation Governors in particular recognise their responsibility to ensure the Relationships and Sex Education programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church's teaching as outlined in "Leaning to Love" the Bishops of England and Wales document 2016. The RSHE Governor is Ms S Kiely.

### **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 pertaining 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 Relationships and Sex Education Programme; its contents, evaluation and review and any subsequent developments.

### **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 Relationships and Sex Education Co-ordinator and will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.

This policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School. It will be reviewed by the Governors and Headteacher in conjunction with all the staff annually from the date below.

Signed - C. McDonald Hollis (Chair of Governors)

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021