Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Policy Reference: RSE1
Responsibility: Curriculum, Standards and Community Links Committee
Reviewed by: Mrs Paula Dix
This Review: Jan 2018
Next Review Due: Jan 2021
Cycle: Three Yearly
Ratified by Full Governing Body on:
Signed:

Mrs Lisa Roy Chair of Governors
School Mission, Vision and Aims
The Mission Statement of the school, together with the vision for the school and its aims as an educational establishment, underpin all the school policies. For an up-to-date statement of the mission, vision and aims of the school, see the school website, [http://www.st-bernadettes.hants.sch.uk/](http://www.st-bernadettes.hants.sch.uk/).

Introduction

This policy has been written in accordance with guidance on human sexuality and personal relationships provided by the Diocese of Portsmouth in 2015. “Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails” (Corinthians 13:4-8).

We are involved in Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) precisely because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person: the interior life of God is a community of persons. We are unique individuals, made in God’s image and therefore destined to live in relationships with others, to form community; called to love and be loved. There is often a mistaken belief about Christianity, a belief that somehow we are opposed to the body and that sexual expression is therefore wrong. Nothing could be further from the truth. Pope Benedict wrote: “Human beings are made up of body and soul. We are truly ourselves when body and soul are intimately united”. God’s love is the model for our human love and this requires right and loving relationships. Our relationships and sex education program therefore:
- recognises and affirms parents are the first teachers of their children.
- is a developmental programme.
- is a whole person approach to educating.

Aims for Relationships and Sex Education
- To encourage pupils’ growth in self-respect, acknowledging we are all created in the image and likeness of God.
- To teach children to respect themselves and other people.
- To encourage pupils to listen to others and be tolerant and understanding of their viewpoints.
- To help pupils develop an understanding that love is the central basis of a relationship.
- To help explore the meaning and value of relationships and the diversity of expression.
- To develop pupil’s confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings within a relationship.
- To help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain a positive relationship.
- To offer sex education within the wider and important context of relationships.
- To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty.
- To help pupils to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle.
- To help children understand how their faith should influence how they live their lives
- To explore the process of human procreation and sexuality.
- To understand the Catholic Church’s teachings on issues concerning human sexuality.
- To deliver all Relationships and Sex Education in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Roles and Responsibilities

Staff
- Behave as role models and educators in this aspect of pupil education.
- Value and affirm all pupils actively to promote open and wholesome relationships.
- Develop gospel values and effective pastoral systems.
- Provide positive and accurate learning about relationships and sex.
- Advise governors on the content of the programme in order to develop suitable procedures for dealing with requests from parents to withdraw their children from RSE lessons.
- Contribute to reviewing existing provision and use their professional skills in developing the curriculum.
- Are clear on the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Participate in monitoring and evaluating Relationships and Sex Education.

Governinig Body
- Ensure that there is a Relationships and Sex Education policy, which follows Diocesan principles and reflects the teaching of the Catholic Church.
- Make the policy for RSE available to parents and ensure they are aware of their right to withdraw their child from RSE lessons.
- Ensure staff are provided with adequate training and resources so that the programme can be taught correctly, creatively and sensitively.
- Participate in monitoring and evaluating the Relationships and Sex Education Policy.

Parents
- Recognise the Church has stated: “…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…..many parents require help and support in this task from both school and parishes.” (Bishops’ Low Week Meeting, 1994).
- Work in partnership with the school to ensure their children receive accurate and honest Relationships and Sex Education.
- Request support and information from school regarding Relationships and Sex Education where required.
- Attend planned meetings/consultations informing/consulting with parents about the Relationships and Sex Education programme.
- Talk to their child about lessons at school and listen to their questions and thoughts, following up misconceptions or referring these back to teachers to be able to follow up.
• To understand that they have the right to withdraw their child directly from RSE lessons (except those areas which are required by National Curriculum Science) but are encouraged to discuss reasons for this with the school before they do so. Upon deciding to withdraw their child, this request should be put in writing to the governing body.

Pupils
• Have the right to be respected as unique human beings created in the image and likeness of God
• Have the right to receive accurate information, appropriate to their age and ability, to be able to develop physically, spiritually and morally
• Will be encouraged to develop their personal conscience to enable them to make informed choices.
• Are encouraged to listen to the teachings of the Church and become aware of others’ views regarding moral issues related to relationships.
• Are encouraged to try to develop positive relationships with those around them.

Management of the RSE Programme
‘Journey in Love’ will be taught throughout the academic year. Class teachers will plan units of work using resources provided through the ‘Journey in Love’ programme. The unit of work will be taught by the usual class teacher to ensure children have already developed a positive rapport with the teacher before the unit is delivered. This will encourage open and honest discussion of learning objectives covered through the programme. Lessons will be taught within the usual class grouping and will be mixed ability and mixed gender. Some aspects of the Year 6 unit of work will be taught in a lesson where genders are split to allow for the children to feel more confident about asking questions; some lessons will be taught by the Head of School if necessary.

Safeguarding and Confidentiality
All staff have the responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all pupils. Teachers need to be aware that effective Relationships and Sex Education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, could lead to a disclosure of a child protection issue. Disclosures of this nature would be sensitively handled and school safeguarding procedures followed. The same procedures would be followed if a member of staff suspects that a child is the victim of abuse or they have reason to believe that a child is at risk.

Monitoring and Review
The programme for RSE will be monitored annually by the PSHE, RE Leader and Senior Leadership Team to ensure it continues to be effective, relevant and appropriate and takes into account recent guidance from the DfE and Conference of Bishops of England and Wales.
This policy will be reviewed every three years in accordance with the school policy cycle or sooner if statutory requirements and/or Diocesan guidance change.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following additional policies:
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- SEND & Inclusion Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies