

English Martyrs Catholic Voluntary Academy
Relationship and Sex Education Policy



Adopted: September 2016

Review: September 2018



“ We learn and grow as a family in the footsteps of Jesus “

This policy has been written to be clear, unambiguous and concise in the expectation that it will be supportive to and understandable by all. The policy takes account of statutory DoFE requirements and the recommendations of the Diocese of Nottingham.

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

We acknowledge that PSHE and Citizenship as well as Relationship and Sex Education are all underpinned by our relationship with God and so are all encompassed in the title ‘Education for Personal Relationships’. We seek to provide an environment where pupils are informed about relationships in the context of the Catholic faith.

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

In response to 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 our pupils today.

Aims for Relationships and Sex Education

- To encourage children's growth in self worth and self respect, acknowledging that we are all created in the image of God.
- To help children develop and understanding that love is the central basis of a relationship.
- To help children understand the nature of relationships and encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people.
- To develop children's confidence in speaking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.
- To help children acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships.
- To offer sex education in the wider context of relationships.
- To ensure that children protect themselves and ask for help and support when needed.
- To help children resist peer, social and media pressures when necessary.
- To ensure that children are prepared for emotional and physical changes.
- To help children develop a healthy, safe lifestyle.
- To prepare children to take an active role as good citizens and to understand the Catholic vision of what it means to be children of the kingdom of God.
- To deliver all relationship and sex education in accordance with the teachings of the catholic church.

Roles and Responsibilities

Staff

- To 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 relationship 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 relationship and sex education.

The Governing Body

- Ensure that there is a relationship and sex education policy drawn up, which follows diocesan principles and reflects the teaching of the catholic church.
- Make policy available to parents and ensure they are aware of their rights to withdraw their child from RSE lessons. (except those areas which are required by National Curriculum science)
- Ensure staff are provided with adequate training and resources to ensure that the programme can be taught correctly, creatively and sensitively.
- Participate in monitoring and evaluation Relationship and Sex Education Policy.

The Role of Parents

- The Church has always recognised that it is the privilege and responsibility of parents to be the “first and foremost educators of their children.”. Our role is to support them in their task. (Bishops’ Low Week Meeting 1994)
- The Governing Body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishops’ Conference that we should strive to ensure that:
‘Parents are supported in their task.’
‘Parents are consulted and informed of the RSE programme and its contents and any subsequent developments’
- Work in partnership with the school to ensure their children receive accurate and honest RSE.

- Request support and information where needed and attend planned meetings or consultations about the RSE programme.
- Talk to their child about lessons at school and listen to their questions and thoughts following up misconceptions or referring there 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 for national curriculum science) but encourage to discuss reasons for this with the school before they do so. Upon deciding to withdraw their child, this request should be put into writing to the governing body.

Pupils

- Pupils have the right to be respected as unique human beings created in the image of God and to receive accurate information, appropriate to their age and ability, to be able to develop spiritually and morally and to have informed conscience and be able to make informed choices.
- Are encouraged to listen to the teachings of the church and become aware of others views regarding moral issues relating to relationships.
- Are encouraged to develop positive relationships with those around them.

Management of the RSE Programme

The RSE programme will be taught as an additional RE unit of work for all year 5 and 6 pupils during the Summer term of each academic year. Class teachers will prepare lessons using resources from the diocesan programme recently updated by Sister Dorothy.

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. At times it may be appropriate to invite guest speakers to work alongside the usual class teacher to deliver a lesson.