



POLICY FOR RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX (RSE) EDUCATION

**This policy has been approved by
Holy Family Catholic Primary School
In January 2022 and will be reviewed in January 2023.**



Part of the Xavier Catholic Education Trust

Holy Family Mission Statement

Our catholic school sets out to provide an education that is God-centred. It is a community where everyone is valued, loved and respected by each other.

Our children are encouraged to give of their best in all they do, to understand their beliefs and to work and play happily together. They are further encouraged to express their God given talents and to show qualities of honesty, tolerance, forgiveness, caring and patience.

We value our place in the parish and aim to maintain our strong partnerships with parents, governors and the wider community.

We aim to work as a team in a partnership that is truly supportive and understanding of everyone's needs.

We seek to follow God's guidance of loving and caring for each other in the way he taught us and to uphold our school name, living each day as one happy and Holy Family.

Describe any consultation that has taken place

- Consultation with to parents/carers
- Review of RSE curriculum content with staff
- Consultation with school governors
- Following guidance of the Diocese, CES and Xavier CET

Dissemination

The policy will be made available to all members of the Holy Family Local Governing Committee and all members of staff. Copies of the document will be available to all parents through the school's website and a copy will be available via the school office.

Defining Relationship and Sex Education

The DfE guidance states that "children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way"¹. It is about the development of the pupil's knowledge and understanding of her or him as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. In primary schools the focus should be on "teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults."² This would include the topics of families and the people of who care for me, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe.

Statutory Curriculum Requirements

¹ Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, Head Teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers, Page 4

² Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, Head Teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers, Page 19

We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSE which are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science.

However, the reasons for our inclusion of RSE go further.

Rationale

‘I HAVE COME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL’ (Jn.10.10)

We are involved in relationships and sex education 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 RSE 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. RSE 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) RSE 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 RSE 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 and support will be provided to help pupils deal with different sets of values. It will also prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

Values and Virtues

Our programme 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 Relationship and Sex Education 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 RSE 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”³ 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;
- being patient, delaying gratification and learning to recognise the appropriate stages in the development of relationships, and how to love chastely;
- 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 love is expressed sexually and how sexual love plays an essential and sacred role in procreation;

Outcomes

³ Gravissimum Educationis 1

Inclusion and Differentiated Learning

We will ensure RSE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances; for example their own sexual orientation, faith or culture and is taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help. (In looking at these questions, it is important to draw links to the school's Equality Statement & Policy for Disability and Accessibility).

Equalities Obligations

The Local Governing Committee have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, pregnancy, maternity, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

Broad Content of RSE

Three aspects of RSE - attitudes and values, knowledge and understanding, and personal and social skills will be provided in three inter-related ways: the whole school / ethos dimension, a cross-curricular dimension and a specific relationships and sex curriculum.

A Journey in Love – our school RSE Programme

A Journey in Love is a resource created by Sister Jude Groden of BRES. It is the recommended programme of study for Catholic schools for Sex and Relationship Education, and has been written as a progressive scheme of work that supports the Religious Education, PSHE and Science curricula taught within the school.

Throughout A Journey in Love, an aspect of the mystery of love is focussed upon in each group, children and young people are encouraged to marvel at the wonder and beauty of God's creative love. This is reflected in each stage of a person's growth in the Primary Years through a series of suggested, progressive and developmental tasks, activities and reflections which focus on physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.

As with all aspects of learning, children are naturally curious and many will have questions relating to their lessons and again these are treated with care and understanding.

A Journey in Love highlights the importance of parental input and children will be told to discuss their lessons at home.

Programme/Resources

Appendices to this policy provide further information about the programme and resources for suggested use.

Teaching strategies will include:

- establishing ground rules
- distancing techniques
- discussion
- project learning
- reflection

- experiential
- active
- brainstorming
- film & video
- group work
- role-play
- trigger drawings
- values clarification

Parents and Carers

We recognise that parents and carers are the primary educators of their children. As a Catholic school, we provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children. Therefore, the school will support parents and carers by providing material to be shared with their children at home and workshops to help parents/carers to find out more. Parents/carers will be informed by letter when the more sensitive aspects of RSE will be covered in order that they can be prepared to talk and answer questions about their children's learning.

Parents must be consulted before this policy is ratified by the governors. They will be consulted at every stage of the development of the RSE programme, as well as during the process of monitoring, review and evaluation. They will be able to view the resources used by the school in the RSE programme. Our aim is that, at the end of the consultation process, every parent and carer will have full confidence in the school's RSE programme to meet their child's needs.

Parents continue to have the **right to withdraw** their children from RSE except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to notify the school by contacting the Head Teacher. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning.

We believe that the controlled environment of the classroom is the safest place for this curriculum to be followed. Please refer to the DfE guidance, page 17, for further details on the right to be excused from sex education (commonly referred to as the right to withdraw)

Balanced Curriculum

Whilst promoting Catholic values and virtues and teaching in accordance with Church teaching, we will ensure that pupils are offered a balanced programme by providing an RSE programme that offers a range of viewpoints on issues. Pupils will also receive clear scientific information as well as covering the aspects of the law pertaining to RSE. Knowing about facts and enabling young people to explore differing viewpoints is not the same as promoting behaviour and is not incompatible with our school's promotion of Catholic teaching.

We will ensure that pupils have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.

Responsibility for Teaching the Programme

Responsibility for the specific relationships and sex education programme lays with all teaching staff.

All staff will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspect of the RSE programme. They will be role models for pupils of good, healthy, wholesome relationships as between staff, other adults and pupils. They will also be contributing to the development of pupils' personal and social skills.

External Visitors

Our school will often call upon help and guidance from outside agencies and health specialists to deliver aspects of RSE. Such visits will always complement the current programme and never substitute or replace teacher led sessions. It is important that any external visitor is clear about their role and responsibility whilst they are in school delivering a session. Any visitor must adhere to our code of practice developed in line with CES guidance 'Checklist for External Speakers to Schools'.⁴

Health professionals should follow the school's policies, minimising the potential for disclosures or inappropriate comments using negotiated ground rules and distancing techniques as other teachers would. They will ensure that all teaching is rooted in Catholic principles and practice.

Other Roles and Responsibilities regarding RSE

Local Governing Committees

- Ensure that the policy is available to parents;
- Ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies, e.g. SEN, the ethos of the school and our Christian beliefs;
- Ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children;
- Establish a link governor to share in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, including resources used;
- Ensure that the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum science topics and the setting of RSE within PSHE.

Head teacher

The Head Teacher takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Xavier Trust Board of Directors, Local Governing Committee, parents, the Diocesan Schools' Service and the Local Education Authority, also appropriate agencies.

PSHE/RSE Co-ordinator

The co-ordinator, with the Head Teacher, has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RSE and the provision of in-service training.

All Staff

RSE is a whole school issue. All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach RSE in accordance with the Catholic Ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RSE. All staff have been included in the development of this policy and all staff should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them.

⁴ CES Checklist for External Speakers to Schools, 2016

Relationship to other Policies and Curriculum Subjects

This RSE policy is to be delivered as part of the PSHE framework. It includes guidelines about pupil safety and is compatible with the school's other related policy documents for Child Protection and Safeguarding.

Pupils with additional needs will receive appropriately differentiated support in order to enable them to achieve mature knowledge, understanding and skills. Teaching methods will be adapted to meet the varying needs of this group of pupils.

Learning about RSE in PSHE classes will link to/complement learning in those areas identified in the RSE audit.

Children's questions

The governors want to promote a healthy, positive atmosphere in which RSE can take place. They want to ensure that pupils can ask questions freely, be confident that their questions will be answered, and be sure that they will be free from bullying or harassment from other children and young people.

Controversial or Sensitive issues

There will always be sensitive or controversial issues in the field of RSE. These may be matter of maturity, of personal involvement or experience of children, of disagreement with the official teaching of the Church, of illegal activity or other doubtful, dubious or harmful activity. The governors believe that children are best-educated and protected from harm and exploitation by discussing such issues openly within the context of the RSE programme. The use of ground rules, negotiated between teachers and pupils, will help to create a supportive climate for discussion. (See also DFE Statutory Guidance: Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education, Managing difficult questions, Page 23 for more detail).

Some questions may raise issues which it would not be appropriate for teachers to answer during ordinary class time, for example where a child or young person's questions hints at abuse, are deliberately tendentious, or are of a personal nature. Teachers will answer questions honestly but with due regard to the nature of the question and the age and maturity of the questioner. In some cases, it may be inappropriate for the teacher to respond to a specific question and the pupil will be referred to his/her parents / carers.

Supporting children and young people who are at risk

Children will also need to feel safe and secure in the environment in which RSE takes place. Effective RSE will provide opportunities for discussion of what is and is not appropriate in relationships. Such discussion may well lead to disclosure of a safeguarding issue. Teachers will need to be aware of the needs of their pupils and not let any fears and worries go unnoticed. Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is a victim of or is at risk of abuse they are required to follow the school's child protection and safeguarding policy and immediately inform the designated safeguarding lead.

Confidentiality and Advice

All governors, all teachers, all support staff, all parents and all pupils must be made aware of this policy, particularly as it relates to issues of advice and confidentiality.

All lessons, especially those in the RSE programme, will have the best interests of pupils at heart, enabling them to grow in knowledge and understanding of relationships and sex, developing appropriate personal and social skills and becoming appreciative of the values and attitudes, which underpin the Christian understanding of what it means to be fully human.

Pupils will be encouraged to talk to their parents/carers about the issues which are discussed in the programme. Teachers will always help pupils facing personal difficulties, in line with the school's pastoral care policy. Teachers should explain to pupils that they cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, for instance in matters that are illegal or abusive. Teachers will explain that in such circumstance they would have to inform others, e.g. parents, Designated Safeguarding Lead or Head Teacher, but that the pupils would always be informed first that such action was going to be taken.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The RSE Co-ordinator alongside the Link Governor will monitor the provision of the various dimensions of the programme by examining plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils work at regular intervals. The programme will be evaluated biannually by means of questionnaires and/or by discussion with pupils, staff and parents.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be monitored annually by the RSE Coordinator and reviewed annually by the Governing Body. Parents/carers will be consulted with, if any changes or adaptations are proposed.

The Governors of Holy Family Catholic Primary School has formally adopted this policy for RSE. It will be reviewed by the Governors and Headteacher in conjunction with all staff on the date below.

Signed **Chair of Governors**

Signed **Headteacher**

Date January 2022

Date for Review January 2023

APPENDIX 1

An overview of the programme: A Journey in Love by Sr. Jude Groden

The Primary RE/PSHE scheme for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), approved by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, is “A Journey in Love” will be taught throughout the school during the second half of the summer term.

Each year group is taught at an appropriate level for understanding, and the whole theme is based on God’s love for us and the belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God.

There are five areas which include physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual for each year group. Many of the aspects are already within our RE curriculum, and the themes include activities, reflections and prayers.

The learning objectives are as follows: -

Early Years – God loves each of us in our uniqueness

Children know and understand that God has made them unique and that although we are all different, we are all special to Him.

Examples of Early Years activities:

- A graph of eye colours
- Why was I given my name?
- Who are my friends?

- I grew for 9 months in my mummy's tummy, Jesus grew for 9 months in Mary's womb

Year 1 – We meet God's love in our family

Children know and understand that they are growing and developing as members of their own family and God's family.

Examples of Year 1 activities:

- Draw a picture of my family
- How old was I when I learned to crawl, speak etc.
- How can I help at home?
- We are members of God's family

Year 2 – We meet God's love in the community

Children know and understand that they are growing and developing in a God given community.

Examples of Year 2 activities:

- What is community?
- Explore school as a community
- How can we contribute to the community?
- As children of God, how should we help each other?

Year 3 – How we live in love

Children know and understand the virtues essential to friendship, e.g. loyalty, responsibility...and experience the importance both of forgiving and being forgiven, and of celebrating God's forgiveness.

Examples of Year 3 activities:

- Who cares for me at home, school, parish, community?
- How do you keep safe?
- How do you take care of others?
- How do you feel if a friend is not there for you or you are not there for them?
- How can I forgive and include others as Jesus did?

Year 4 – God loves us in our differences

Children know and understand that they are all different and celebrate these differences as they appreciate that God's love accepts us as we are and as we change.

Examples of Year 4 activities:

- Recognise all pupils grow and develop at a different rate
- Name male and female body parts
- Identify the development of the baby in the womb
- How do I appreciate my own and others gifts, talents, achievements and all that makes us unique
- St Paul's teaching on love

Year 5 – God loves me in my changing and development

Children know and become aware of the physical and emotional changes that accompany puberty – sensitivity, mood swings, anger, boredom, etc. and grow further in their understanding of God's presence in their daily lives.

Examples of Year 5 activities:

- Identify and celebrate the ways I have changed since birth
- Discuss the external and internal changes which happen to boys and girls in puberty
- Recognise behaviour changes as we grow up
- Children share their understanding of change through poetry, prayer, art etc.

Year 6 – The wonder of God's love in creating new life

Children develop, in an appropriate way for their age, an understanding of sexuality and grow further in their appreciation of their dignity and worth as children of God.

Examples of Year 6 activities:

- Explain how human life is conceived
- Male and female reproductive organs
- Sexual intercourse between husband and wife
- How a child grows within the mother's womb
- How we often use the word love too casually
- Understand that God causes new life to begin through the love that parents have for each other.