

St. Raphael's Catholic Primary School Sex and Relationship Education Policy

Purpose of the policy

Education in sexuality is more than biology and how the reproductive system works. It is also about relationships, feelings, respect, responsibilities and behaviour. Sex education will enable the children to have some understanding of themselves, their own bodies and their emotional development as they grow and change. It will help them to understand the nature of relationships and to reflect upon the ways in which these are conducted. Children must acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and handle both their present and future relationships while becoming 'fully human, fully alive' members of the Christian family.

At St Raphael's Catholic Primary School we are aware that sexuality is a fundamental component of one's personality and so is God's gift to us. It is therefore essential that '...our children and young people are given positive guidance and a true appreciation of all their human gifts' (Bishops' Conference 1987).

We recognise that parents are the key figures in helping their children to cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities that sexual maturity brings. Legislation requires of schools careful consideration of the whole education of young people. Sex and relationships education is an integral part of the growth and development of pupils and cannot be neglected if our school is to fulfil its statutory obligation.

At St Raphael's Catholic Primary School we wish our pupils to participate in a curriculum which will help them to develop spiritually, intellectually, morally, socially and culturally, so that they will be prepared for adult life.

Education in sexuality should be developmental and age appropriate; it should enable sexuality to be integrated into personal growth from infancy – through childhood to adolescence and beyond. Consequently, each young person is entitled to experience within our school a climate in which the quality of relationships between staff and pupils, and between the pupils themselves, is marked by the Gospel values and embodied with honesty, warmth, trust and security. Therefore, sex and relationships education must be taught within the curriculum, underpinned by the spirit of our Mission Statement.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Young people need much help and guidance in their struggle to live out their lives as members of the Christian family, in accordance with Christ's law of love. Hence we aim:

- to provide a programme of sex and relationships education in the context of Christian and family values;
- to understand and value the variety of different family compositions;
- to encourage personal responsibility in all matters of choice and behaviour;
- to encourage respect and consideration for others;
- to encourage Christian values of morality and love;
- to have an awareness of where our pupils are in their knowledge and understanding, so that their concerns can be identified;
- to emphasise that love is the centre and basis of meaningful relationships;
- to help pupils develop the courage to resist peer, social and media pressures to conform to present day attitudes to sexual behaviour;
- to raise pupils' self-esteem, recognising that they are created in the image of God;
- to know where to go to for support to find advice and strategies.

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“May God's love shine in our lives as we care and share and learn together.”

AGREED PROCEDURE

STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING

Sex and relationships education is an integral part of the overall RE, science and PSHE programmes. While some aspects of the sex education programme form part of the National Curriculum requirements, the emphasis is on their delivery within a moral framework through the use of appropriate themes. School follows the 'The Way, The Truth and The Life' RE programme and has access to 'Journey in Love', to develop the SRE aspect further.

Generally pupils will be taught as a class, though on some occasions in Years 5 and 6 boys and girls may be taught separately in order to facilitate more open discussion.

CURRICULUM LINKS

SRE is taught explicitly within PSHE lessons and age appropriate links are made as appropriate, for example within the teaching of Life Cycles in Year 5.

WORKING WITH PARENTS

We believe that Sex Education is primarily the responsibility of parents but we aim to support and enhance this process. Parents will be offered an opportunity to view materials prior to their children. Parents will also be given notice of when their children are to be taught specific subjects - this should enable relevant discussion to take place at home. If questions arise that we feel are best answered by parents, then we shall advise the children to discuss the issue with their parents.

Child withdrawal procedures

Under the 1993 Education Act parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex Education programme (although not from the Science National Curriculum).

Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked either to inform the Headteacher by letter or to make an appointment to discuss the issues causing concern.

The policy was written in a working party involving governors, parents and staff.

MONITORING THE SEX EDUCATION POLICY AND PRACTICE

The provision of sex education is monitored by the RE Co-ordinator in liaison with the Headteacher and staff. The role of the Co-ordinator, together with the Headteacher, is:

- to support colleagues in planning and implementing the policy and scheme of work;
- to monitor and review the effectiveness of the programme;
- to liaise with Catholic Secondary schools when required

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