

St Joseph's R.C. Middle School



Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) Policy

Date:	September 2020
Review Date:	September 2021
Subject Lead:	Mrs Carolyn Hagger
Senior Leads:	Mrs Kate Seddon & Mrs Joanna Gelson
Governor Lead:	Fr Christopher Warren

St Joseph's RC Middle School

Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) Policy

This document refers to the implementation of Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex and Health Education. We are 'committed to supporting all children to grow up happy, healthy and safe, and to provide them with the knowledge they need to manage the opportunities and challenges of modern Britain. That is why, all primary age children will be taught Relationships Education and Health Education and all secondary age children will be taught Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education.' DfE (Department for Education) - Effective from September 2020

Description of School: We are a Catholic school that firmly believes in providing effective, good quality education for all of our pupils whatever their ability and needs. As a school we have a reputation for being a happy, friendly and caring Catholic school which embraces the Gospel message and provides extremely well for our pupils' welfare as well as providing a good education. Relationships between home and school are positive and effective which helps to ensure every child makes expected progress in school. (K Seddon)

POLICY FORMATION, CONSULTATION AND DISSEMINATION

Formation: The policy was drafted in the light of the most recent DfE guidelines (2019) and has addressed current (2020) Government proposals. See [LINK](#) and the guidance offered by the Catholic Education Service (CES) and Ten:Ten (providers of the Life to the Full Programme).

Consultation: Due to COVID 19 consultation will initially take place remotely. Please send any comments or questions to : Carolyn Hagger (Subject Lead) via admin@hexhamstjosephs.uk and **join us in the consultation process** through the links on the School website. The consultation process will take place in November 2020. The Policy will

be reviewed each year by the Subject Lead and Governing Body, where any further changes will require further parent consultation.

Dissemination: The draft policy will be given to all members in the Governing Body, and all teaching and non-teaching members of staff. Copies of the document will be available to all parents through the school's prospectus and a copy is available to all electronically via the school website and hard copies are available on request. Details of the content of the RSE curriculum will also be available on the school's website and via the Ten:Ten parent platform.

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'. It's 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 the right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in confidence. In primary schools the focus is 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.' This will include the topics of families and the people who care for me, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe. In secondary schools, RSE should 'give young people the information they need to help them develop healthy, nurturing relationships of all kinds, not just intimate relationships. It should enable them to know what a healthy relationship looks like and what makes a good friend and colleague and a successful marriage or other type of committed relationship. It should also mention contraception, developing intimate relationships and resisting pressure to have sex (and not applying pressure).' We are legally obliged to teach those aspects of RSE which are statutory parts of the National Curriculum for Science too.

RATIONALE

'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full' (John 10:10)
'As a consequence of Christian belief 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, 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, RSE will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness.'
(CES) 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 our Catholic school.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS POLICY

At St Joseph's, 'Our mission is to embrace the spirit and teachings of the Catholic faith while striving for excellence in all aspects of school life.' We are committed to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural and emotional) and we believe that RSE is an integral part of this education.

Aim: Our school aims 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 spirituality maturity, and rooted in a Catholic vision of education and the human person.

It is the aim of the policy that it outlines the educational commitments and contributes to our ethos of valuing and including each individual in the school community. That it informs staff/student relationships, both in one to one interaction and in class situations.

Objectives: Towards this aim, students will be given: objective factual information about the human body and its changes including information about reproduction, control of fertility, sexuality, attraction relationships and information about confidential helping services. Opportunities to clarify some of the attitudes towards friendships, sexuality and gender. Opportunities to discuss some moral issues – hearing the points of views of others and respecting other people's decisions, rights and bodies. A

chance to explore ideas about family, marriage, parenting and the ways in which people care for each other, and the benefits of stable relationships. Information on how to protect themselves from inappropriate online content, cyberbullying and exploitation. With the added opportunity to use the parent platform and discuss any areas further with parents and carers.

MORAL AND VALUES FRAMEWORK

Our programme enshrines Catholic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life. A respect for self and others. Non exploitation in sexual relationships. A culture in which we explore rights, duties and responsibilities in relationships. An acknowledgment and understanding of diversity regarding religion, culture, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability and social class. It will also promote those virtues which are essential in responding to 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, integrity, prudence, mercy and compassion.

ORGANISATION OF SCHOOL SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

The programme is taught by RE Teachers using the Life to The full Programme as the main structure to the curriculum and by years 5 and 7 Science staff as part of the Science curriculum. The personal beliefs and attitudes of teachers will not influence the teaching of relationship and sex education.

Name of Governor Lead: Fr Christopher Warren (responsible for strategic overview of policy and its implementation)

Name of SLT Strategic lead: Mrs Carolyn Hagger (responsible for strategic overview of RSE curriculum, policy development, teacher training, planning, monitoring and impact assessment)

Names of Pastoral KS Leads: Mr Gavin Simpson, Mr Phil Rosier (responsible for modeling and supporting all pastoral teachers)

Name of RE Lead: Mrs Joanna Gelson (responsible for the RE team delivering of the programme)

Name of Science Curriculum Lead: Mr Gavin Simpson (responsible for delivery of science statutory RSE content)

Training Provision: Mrs Gelson and Mrs Hagger have both received training from the providers, Ten:Ten, and completed the Catholic Education Service training in RSHE. RE teachers are already familiar with using the Catholic resource prior to COVID19 but all staff will receive training by the end of September 2020, to make them aware of the content, language and ethos of the programme and to enable everyone to understand and feel comfortable with the statutory requirements and the programme.

Introduction: The Life to the Full programme provides a fit for purpose, fully-integrated and holistic programme in Relationship Education that truly enables children to 'Live life to the full' (John 10:10)

Delivery: We use a variety of teaching methods including active learning, discussion and project learning, and encourage reflection. A safe environment for discussion is created by the use of ground rules and distancing techniques. We carefully select any additional resources such as; leaflets and other written material from the best that is available at any time (parents are welcome to see any of this material). The Primary Resource 'Life To The Full' produced by Ten:Ten supports the delivery of RSE in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 in a Catholic context. Informal language for parts of the human body, and sexual activity, may be used in the class but formal terms will be taught.

Guidelines for outside visitors: All educational visitors to school will be assessed using the CES guidance. See [LINK](#)

Questioning: Teachers will be offered guidance on answering students' questions as part of their specialist training. If a question seems too explicit, or inappropriate for the whole class, the teacher will acknowledge it and address it later on an individual basis.

Review: Procedures for reviewing effectiveness of programme evaluation will be discussed termly with all staff teaching the programme, and student views will be sought by anonymous questionnaires and focus groups. Parents can keep up-to-date via the on-line platform and parents' views will be sought by feedback at parents' meetings and any RSE open evenings. The programme will be responsive to these views.

We intend to review the programme in the light of pupils' responses and other views, every 12 months.

Complaints Procedure, (or support). Any comment or complaint about the content or delivery of the relationship and sex education programme should be addressed to the Subject Lead via admin@hexhamstjosephs.uk

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES At St Joseph's we believe every human person has the right to be treated with dignity and the right to be respected as a child of God. This policy links closely with the Equal Opportunities policy, the Anti-Bullying policy and the County Guidelines on Child Protection plus other policies, available in school. Equal opportunities is not about treating everyone the same – but about helping to redress imbalances. When students struggle they are offered more help to benefit from their schooling. If they are struggling within relationships, identity or loss we will try to provide them with the support they need – either inside school or externally. It is well documented that students are sometimes bullied because of their perceived sexual orientation. This school takes this and all forms of bullying very seriously. Through the Diana Award we also work with Pupil Ambassadors for Wellbeing and Friendship (Anti-bullying) peer support. Objective discussion of homosexuality and diversity in sexual orientation will take place in relationship and sex education lessons in order to meet the needs of all pupils. There will be no promotion of any sexual orientation. In the PSHCE programme we attempt to select activities and resources which are age, experience, reading level and culturally appropriate. All lessons attempt to engage boys and girls equally well.

SPECIFIC ISSUES STATEMENTS - Withdrawal of pupils from sex and relationship education - Any parent wishing to withdraw their child from relationship and sex education should be encouraged to make an appointment with the Subject Lead (Mrs Carolyn Hagger) to discuss the issues and concerns. Students cannot be withdrawn from any part of the teaching which falls within the National Curriculum. Inevitably there will be occasions when discussion of aspects of sexual behaviour and choices will arise in other curriculum areas. These discussions will be sensitively handled – and, if appropriate, the teacher can ask a relevant RE/Form teacher to advise/adjust/develop the subject at another time.

The links between the relationship and sex programme and the science programme will be identified and will be made clear to the students and staff.

CONFIDENTIALITY: In the classroom, students are reminded to be mindful about what they share and know their privacy is respected, but what a student says or writes in the classroom is, by definition, not confidential. Students should be encouraged to speak in general terms, rather than personal, by use of ground rules and distancing techniques. When discussing issues in the classroom student disclosures which indicate the student at risk must be reported by the teacher to the Child Protection Officer/Head Teacher, who will decide whether parents should be informed, and any other action to be taken. Class teachers should not go directly to parents with disclosures. If a class teacher is reporting a disclosure to the Child Protection Officer/Head Teacher, the pupil should be told this. CONFIDENTIALITY - Individually, Teachers should not promise absolute confidentiality to students. However, teachers will recognise the importance of listening to the concerns of individual students. Staff will also be aware that young males find it more difficult than females to express emotions, and will offer support where possible.

WORKING WITH PARENTS: We have worked with parent governors on producing this policy, and always welcome the views of parents on what we are trying to achieve in the school. Any parent who wishes a copy of this policy can gladly have one. This is also available via the school website. We give parents the opportunity to view the schemes of work and policies on-line or at any RSE open evening (Hopefully October 2020).

A guide for parents from the Department for Education [LINK](#)

This is a DRAFT Policy for consultation written by Mrs Carolyn Hagger, June 2020.