



DUKINFIELD

**Relationships and Sex
Education Policy
(November 2017)**

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
Relationship and Sex Education Policy (RSE)

Mission Statement

Our mission is to work to develop the full potential of each individual in an environment where the Gospel values of love, peace, truth and justice are lived out.

School Ethos:

We believe that all children have an entitlement to learn about relationships and sex as part of the wider PSHE provision. We acknowledge the vital role of parents and seek to support them through on-going consultation and ensuring that this policy reflects their views. Our school's aims and values underpin the ways in which we ensure a whole school approach to provide an effective taught curriculum for all our pupils and a sensitive approach to pastoral issues. We aim to meet the needs of all our pupils and provide opportunities for pupils to begin to develop skills and attitudes and understand how their bodies work.

Every child in our school has the right to enjoy learning and play, feeling happy and comfortable. In accordance with the ethos and mission statement of St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, we pledge to respect the equal human rights of all our pupils and to educate them about equality. We will also respect the equal rights of our staff and other members of the school community. We will comply with all equality legislation and be particularly mindful of the need to protect pupils and all other members of our community from homophobic, biphobic and transphobic (HBT) bullying in order to make all children feel safe and welcome.

Aims:

Our aims are to:

- Provide an effective Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) programme which meets the needs of all our pupils;
- Provide opportunities for all children to understand themselves within the wider context of physical and emotional changes and to equip them with the skills and understandings to be confident with their own sexuality.
- To enhance the self-esteem of young people with the aim of promoting a positive self-image.
- To explore the nature of the wide range of relationships such as friendship and marriage and how their behaviour, attitudes and values affect these.
- To be respectful of the teachings of the Catholic Church in all aspects of the implementation of our Relationships and Sex Education Policy, with specific reference to 'Learning to Love' (Department of Catholic Education and Formation Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, March 2017)

Confidentiality:

This policy runs in conjunction with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy. We aim to provide an environment where children feel at ease, but the aim of the RSE programme is not for the children to disclose confidential information. However, in the event of sensitive information being disclosed which gives cause for concern, any teacher or other member of staff will follow the correct procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Dealing with Sensitive issues:

It is our aim that pupils feel confident and comfortable when asking questions both in class and around school. In most cases, children's questions will be answered openly and honestly. However, on occasion, pupils may ask questions that are not appropriate i.e. questions about a teacher's personal life or of a sensitive nature.

Teachers will develop a supportive climate in their classroom, with clearly defined ways of working and the appropriate language to use. In addition, staff have discussed a range of questions and have agreed that some questions may need to be answered on an individual basis and some may require a measured response appropriate to the emotional maturity and level of understanding of the child. In some instances certain questions will require parental involvement.

Specific issues:

Children may sometimes make statements which contain offensive language about homosexuals, bisexuals or transsexuals (HBT). These will be recorded and dealt with appropriately, as ignorance to such comments breeds an acceptance of homophobic attitudes and behaviour that is not acceptable in our school. All individuals have a basic right to safety and freedom from discrimination. Homophobic behaviour is as unacceptable as racism and sexism. We believe that this approach is consistent with our mission statement as well as the aims and principles of the Catholic Church and all current equality legislation.

Working with Parents:

We will work closely with parents to raise the awareness of the breadth of RSE and how and when it is taught. The content of the RSE programme will be outlined to parents before the commencement of the programme, on an annual basis. In addition, the policy and programme of work will be available to all parents.

We acknowledge the right of parents and carers to withdraw their child/ren from those aspects of the RSE programme not included in the National Curriculum. We encourage all parents who may have concerns to first of all discuss these with the Headteacher, Deputy Head or PSHE Co-ordinator.

Organisation:

The named governor is Father Oliver O'Doherty

The teacher with responsibility is Mrs S Brackenridge

Self-review, monitoring and evaluation:

The school is committed to delivering an effective RSE programme for its pupils and recognises the value and importance of monitoring and evaluating the provision of RSE and the way in which all individuals are supported. The school will continually monitor the RSE programme through the work of the PSHE co-ordinator, which includes lesson observation, and teacher, pupil and parent feedback.

The PSHE co-ordinator reports findings to the Governing body on an annual basis in order to inform future planning and delivery.

This policy has been updated using guidance from 'Learning to Love' (Department of Catholic Education and Formation Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, March 2017) and will be reviewed on a two yearly basis and amended in conjunction with any future Church, Local Authority or DfE advice or guidance.

Member of staff responsible: Mrs S Brackenridge (Deputy Headteacher)

Date of first adoption and governors' approval: March 2016

Subsequently, Governors approved the insertion of the equality statement (top of page 2) in all relevant existing policies at the Summer Term 2017 full Governing Body Meeting. This policy will be reviewed by the Catholic Ethos, Performance and Standards sub-committee on Wednesday 22nd November 2017.