

OUR LADY OF LOURDES POLICY AND PROCEDURES GUIDE

Subject: Sex & Relationship Education Policy

Issue Date: 14.01.16

Review Date: 31.03.2018

Status: STATUTORY POLICY. To be reviewed: FGB to determine. To be ratified by: Headteacher

Mission Statement

At Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School we learn to live and love like Jesus, to help one another and treat everyone with kindness, tolerance, respect, and understanding in a safe and caring environment. God is always with us.

Purpose of this Policy

The aim of this policy is to communicate clearly to staff, parents and governors how Sex and Relationship Education is approached in the school.

1. AIMS OF THE SEX AND RELATIONSHIP POLICY

- To support young people in their physical, emotional and moral development.
- To encourage in the children respect and consideration for themselves and for others.
- To encourage personal responsibility in all forms of behaviour.
- To raise children's self-esteem, recognising that each one of us is created in the image of God.
- To provide a programme of Sex & Relationship Education in the context of Christian and family values.
- To present Sex & Relationship Education within the context of marriage as the firm basis for family life.
- To work with and support parents and families with the education of their children in sexual & relationship matters.
- To assist our children to move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.
- To provide the children with accurate information about "the facts of life".
- To develop, at an appropriate level for their age, the children's understanding of human reproduction and their own development.
- To encourage the children's sense of wonder and awe in the beauty of God's creation.
- To provide a programme of Sex & Relationship Education based on the teachings of the Catholic Church, its values and morality.
- To provide the children with a framework that allows them to develop their understanding of themselves and their relationships with others.

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2. MORAL FRAMEWORK FOR SEX EDUCATION

Education in sexuality is not just about biology and how the reproductive system works. It is about relationships, feelings and behaviour and this is reflected in this policy.

The school subscribes to the view that "the purpose of Sex Education should be to provide knowledge about loving relationships, the nature of sexuality and the processes of human reproduction". Much emphasis, however, will be placed on providing a Sex & Relationship Education programme "in such a manner as to encourage young people to have regard to moral considerations and the value of family life" (Education Act 1986 and Department for Education Circular 5/94).

As a Catholic school, we are aware that sexuality is a fundamental component of 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 also have "the responsibility to ensure that the information our children are given is received in the context of the Christian community and with Christian values, and based on sound moral principles" (Bishops' Conference 1987).

Content

Education in sexuality and relationships is incremental and, therefore, needs to be developed as children progress through the school. Pupils will first learn, particularly through their reflective work in R.E. and P.S.H.E. assemblies, as well as through day-to-day school life, the value of friendship and the qualities needed to sustain wholesome relationships – trust, co-operation, tolerance, kindness, forgiveness, generosity, understanding and like qualities. Further important concepts are taught to the children through aspects of National Curriculum Science: in Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage we teach children about how animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce and we also teach them about the main parts of the body. In Key Stage 2 we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle in greater depth:

Key Stage 1

1. that animals and humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce.
2. to recognise and compare the main external parts of the bodies of humans.
3. that humans and animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults.
4. to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and treat others with sensitivity.

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Key Stage 2

1. that the life processes common to humans and animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction.
2. about the main stages of the human life cycle.

There will, however, be more in-depth teaching specifically relating to Sex & Relationship Education in Years 5 and 6 during the Summer term when the children are that bit older. This teaching will cover:

- Puberty and how our bodies change as we grow up
- Male and female sex organs
- Nocturnal emissions
- Circumcision
- Menstruation/periods
- Management of personal hygiene
- Changing emotions and social expectations
- Sexual intercourse
- The baby, from conception to birth.

Learning Outcomes

- That our children will develop an informed, reasoned and responsible approach to sexual and relationship matters and issues.
- That our children will develop a clear moral framework to enable them to cope with the pressures of the present day society in the context of the teaching and values of the Catholic Church.

Resources

Personnel: All teaching staff
Governors, Curriculum & Pupil Related Committee
School Nurse

Materials: 'Come and See' R.E. Programme
'Journey in Love' – Sr. Jude Groden
National Curriculum Science
P.S.H.E. schemes of work

Organisation

Generally pupils will be taught as a class but there may be occasions in Years 5 and 6 when boys and girls will be taught separately in order to facilitate more open discussion.

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The content of the Sex & Relationship Education programme will be the same for both boys and girls. Teachers will use a variety of materials to aid their teaching and in Years 5 and 6 specific video programmes on Sex Education will be used to aid and enhance the teaching.

Staff Development

Staff will be encouraged to review resources and update themselves on information and approaches relevant to the Sex & Relationship Education programme (e.g. courses offered by B.R.E.S., E.A.I.S. etc.). This may also mean working more closely with the School Nurse and other SRE related groups.

Roles

The Role of Governors

Governors have the legal responsibility of deciding how Sex & Relationship Education should be taught in school. Diocesan advice is that the needs of children require that schools provide such education. Governors, in consultation with staff and advisors, should be involved in the dialogue as to what materials might be used to teach Sex & Relationship Education.

The Role of Parents

We recognise that it is the privilege and responsibility of the family to inform and educate their children in all matters pertaining to human growth and development, particularly the area of Sex & Relationship Education.

The primary role of parents is paramount to the successful implementation of any policy on Sex & Relationship Education. The Church community also has a privileged role in collaborating with parents in their educative task and, as a school, we see our role as one of supporting parents and not one of taking the place of parents.

The Role of the School

The role of the school will be exercised with sensitivity. The dignity, privacy and modesty of children must always be respected. Teachers must ensure that no pupil feels pressured to reveal or discuss private matters, nor to be involved in a way in which they might feel embarrassment.

The links between Home, School and Parish are of fundamental importance. We see our programme as complementing the teaching and life of home and family. We would hope it is particularly supportive where the home environment may be experiencing difficulties.

Parents and School Working Together

We believe that Sex & Relationship Education is primarily the responsibility of parents but we seek to support this process. We, therefore, feel that consultation evenings with

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parents are important. These meetings will serve to inform parents of how we plan to approach Sex & Relationship Education in school, to seek their views and, at a later stage, to obtain feedback on how effective they deemed the programme to be.

Parents of children in Year 5 and 6 will be offered an opportunity to view video materials prior to their children watching them. Parents will also be given notice of when their children are to view such material – this should enable relevant discussion to take place at home.

Any questions which may be put forward by the childrenwill be answered by staff in accordance with the teaching and morality of the Catholic Church. From time to time questions may be put forward which staff members feel are inappropriate as far as sharing with the class of children is concerned. In this situation children will be encouraged to refer such questions to their parents.

Right of Withdrawal

Parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Sex & Relationship Education where this is not contained in the National Curriculum. We hope that parents will recognise the value of educating children in these matters within the context of the Faith. However, should parents wish to exercise this right, they are asked to either inform the Headteacher by letter or make an appointment to discuss the issues causing concern.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct Sex & Relationship Education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved (or being likely to be involved) in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference very seriously and deal with it as a matter of Child Protection. Staff will follow school Safeguarding Procedures (see our policy on Safeguarding and Child Protection).

Suitability:

Teachers in Years 5 and 6 will be responsible for assessing the suitability of the programme for the children's learning through pupil responses, by feedback from parents as well as by their own overall judgement.

Arrangements for Monitoring and Evaluation

Lessons on Sex & Relationship Education will be observed in the normal programme of monitoring of teaching and the judgements about the impact of the lesson on pupils will be included in the report.

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The Headteacher will be available to answer any questions Governors may have on the implementation of the scheme of work, together with details of any parental and pupil complaints, the number of pupils withdrawn from lessons and the number of teachers and other staff involved in training on Sex & Relationship Education.

Authorised by HEADTEACHER

Date

Approved by GOVERNING BODY

Date