



Relationships and Sex Education

Autumn 2019 – Autumn 2020



Following Jesus As We Live And Learn Together

SCHOOL DETAILS

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DOCUMENT VERSION CONTROL

Version Number	Purpose/Change	Author	Date
0.1	Initial draft presented to Head Teacher	AoLE R.E team- Link Governor- Maria Davies	16/07/19
0.2	Consultation draft presented to Governing Body Members	Angela Heald	15/09/19
1.0	Final version approved by Governing Body	Angela Heald	
Next review date – Spring Term 2020			YEARLY REVIEW

Relationships and Sex Education agreed by Governors:

..... (Signed by Chair)

..... Date

Relationships and Sex Education Policy (RSE).

Introduction

At St Joseph's RSE is about the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is concerned with the development of children's knowledge and understanding of themselves as sexual beings, 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. We respect that all children are different and therefore we aim that what is taught is age appropriate and aligned to children's developmental level.

Statutory Curriculum Requirements

We are legally obliged to teach those aspects of RSE which are statutory parts of the National Curriculum. However, the reasons for our inclusion of RSE go further.

Our approach is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person. We believe in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God. This underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic School. Consequently, 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 aligned with Welsh Government Guidance, RSE will not be taught as a separate subject but rather across the curriculum embedded in the PSHE framework and through R.E scheme of work 'Come and See'.

With the emphasis on the importance of marriage and family life, whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from, RSE at St Joseph's encompasses moral, spiritual, and church teachings within the requirements of the National Curriculum according to the age and needs of the children at this school.

Aims of RSE

The School Mission Statement commits us to the education of the whole child, spiritually, physically, intellectually, morally, socially, culturally, and emotionally and therefore we believe RSE is an integral part of this education. The Governors recognise that the prime responsibility for RSE must rest with the parents or carers. Teaching in the school will be with the support of parents and carers. Additionally, it will be within the norms and precepts of the Catholic Church.

The aim is to develop the following attitudes and virtues:

- reverence for the gift of human sexuality and fertility
- respect for the dignity of every human being
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures
- responsibility for their own actions and recognising the impact of these on others
- recognising and valuing their own sexuality and that of others
- celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life
- fidelity in relationships

and to develop the following personal and social skills:

- making sound judgments and good choices
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying
- managing emotions within relationships, with confidence, sensitivity and dignity
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference
- 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, developing the ability to assess pressures and respond appropriately
- 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
- the Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of family life
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty
- about the human reproductive systems

Equal opportunities and inclusivity

St Joseph's RSE programme reflects the ethos of the school, our intention is to make this programme inclusive of all those who entrust the school with this work. Aware of the diversity of our audience, we will approach all communication with sensitivity, and create stories and scenarios that, when appropriate, reflect the experience of all our family settings. As a school we recognise individual needs and will take due regard of gender, disability and cultural issues. We are greatly encouraged by the leadership that Pope Francis has given in this regard.

"We have to remember....that everyone, none excluded, no matter the situation a person is living in, can feel accepted by God, participate actively in the life of the community and be part of that People of God which journeys tirelessly towards the fullness of his kingdom of justice, love, forgiveness and mercy"

Pope Francis, Misericordia et misera

RSE programme- "Life to the Full"

"Life to the Full" is an age-appropriate developmental programme for 4- 11 year olds. Storytelling sits at the heart of the RSE programme. The programme focuses on both traditional Bible stories and those that are modern and contemporary, helping children to reflect on how to live out their own lives in the future.

The programme is separated into three stages:

- Foundation Phase (Reception- Year 2)
- Lower Key Stage Two (Year 3 & Year 4)
- Upper Key Stage Two (Year 5 & Year 6)

Each key stage is further divided into three core themes:

- Created and Loved by God
- Created to Love others
- Created to Live in Community

Each topic within the programme will draw on key virtues that sit at the heart of Catholic education: virtues such as *respect, appreciation, patience, forgiveness, justice, service and commitment*. These virtues are the pillars around which the entire teaching and learning will be based.

Specific Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) content

As part of the RSE Policy the topic 'Me, my body, my health' in upper Key Stage 2, will include the following teachings:

- My God given purpose in the world
- Similarities and differences between people
- Everyone expresses their uniqueness in different ways
- Changes experienced during puberty
- Making informed choices which impact health

Methods of Teaching

A wide range of teaching strategies will be used aligned to the sensitivity of RSE. For example:

- establishing ground rules
- discussions/activities with class or small group
- reflection
- brainstorming
- books, films, computer resources.
- Assemblies, stories
- professional visitors, eg health professionals, Life organisations, NSPCC
- availability of single sex discussions for specific issues
- question box approach for sensitive and complex matters

Parents and Carers

At St Joseph's we recognise that parents and carers who stand in their place, are the first 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.

Parents/carers are kept informed of progress and have the right to withdraw their children from RSE that is not part of the statutory National Curriculum requirements.

Responsibility for Teaching the Programme

Responsibility for the specific RSE programme is with the class teacher. However, all staff will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspects of the programme.

External Visitors

The school will often call upon help and guidance from outside agencies and health specialists to help deliver aspects of RSE. Such visits will always complement the current programme and never substitute for or replace teacher led sessions. In using external professionals the school will follow LA guidelines regarding the suitability of programmes with the proviso that it must fall within the teachings of the Catholic Church

Children's questions

Sometimes an individual child may ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. Questions do not have to be answered directly and can be addressed individually later. Staff should use the question box approach and can then discuss the question with a senior member of staff and/or parent/carer, who may wish to discuss the question with their child themselves.

Supporting children at risk

Effective RSE will provide opportunities for discussion of what is and what is not appropriate in relationships. Such discussion on occasion may lead to disclosure of safeguarding issue. Where a teacher suspects that a child is a victim or at risk of abuse, they are required to follow the school's safeguarding policy and immediately inform the Headteacher.

Confidentiality and advice

Children will be encouraged to talk to parents/Carers about issues discussed in the programme. Teachers will always help children facing personal difficulties. However pupils will be informed that one hundred percent confidentiality cannot be assured in matters which are illegal or abusive for instance.