

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Isleworth
SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY



This SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY has been approved and adopted by the Governing Body on 15/03/2018 and will be reviewed on 15/03/2020.

School Mission Statement

*Our school family at St Mary's wants this to be a safe, caring, creative and happy place, where we all have a fair chance to learn and grow together and to do the best we can.
We do this by knowing and loving Jesus more every day and by following his teaching in a joyful way.*

Our mission statement commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural, emotional) and we believe that SRE is an integral part of this education. Furthermore, our school aims state that we will endeavour to raise pupils' self-esteem, help them grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes.

Process undertaken

- Review of Statement, drafting of Policy
- Wide consultation of Staff, Parents, Governors
- Consultation of CES Model Policy

Defining Relationship and Sex Education

The DfE guidance SRE as "lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health" ¹. It is about the development of the pupil's knowledge and understanding of him or her as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to love in right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. The DfE identifies three main elements: "attitudes and values, personal and social skill, and knowledge and understanding". ²

Statutory Curriculum Requirements

We are legally required to teach those aspects of SRE which are statutory parts of the National Curriculum Science.

Rationale

"I have come that you might have life and have it to the full"
(Jn.10.10)

We are involved in relationship and sex education precisely because of Christian beliefs and god and about the human person. The belief in the unique dignity of human person make in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Our approach to SRE

¹ Sex and Relationship Education Guidance, DfE, 2000

² ibid

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therefore is rooted in the Catholic church's teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

At the heart of the Christian life is the Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in loving relationship and embracing all people and all creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that 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. SRE 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 as advocated but the DfE SRE will be firmly embedded in the PHSE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupil. It is centered on Christ's vision of being human as good news and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

Aims and Objectives

All SRE teaching will be in accordance with the Church's moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from and support will be provided to help pupils deal with different sets of values.

We aim to do this through our whole school curriculum, entitling every pupil to a broad and well-balanced curriculum, which promotes and develops the spiritual, moral, social, emotional, physical and intellectual needs and well-being of the individual. Such a curriculum will prepare pupil for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Values and Virtues

Our programme enshrines Catholic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life. It also promotes those virtues which are essential in responding to the 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, chastity, integrity, prudence, mercy and compassion.

Aim of SRE and The Mission Statement

Our mission statement commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural, emotional) and we believe that SRE is an integral part of this education. Furthermore, our school aims state that we will endeavour to raise pupils' self-esteem, help them grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes.

The Role of Parents

In partnership with parents, to provide children and young people with a "positive and prudent sexual education"³ which is compatible with their physical, cognitive, psychological, and spiritual maturity, and rooted in a Catholic vision of education and human person.

In promoting this objective, we:

- inform parents about the school's SRE policy and practice;
- answer any questions that parents may have about the sex and relationship education of their child;

³ Gravissimum Educationis 1

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- take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for SRE in the school;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to SRE so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers give to children at home. We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from an SRE lesson, apart from elements that are required by the National Curriculum Science order. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from SRE lessons, they should discuss this with the headteacher, and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their child to participate in.

Objectives

To develop the following attitudes and virtues:

- Reverence for the gift of human sexuality and fertility;
- Respect for the dignity of every human being – in their own person and in the person of others;
- Joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures
- Responsibility for their for their own actions and recognition of the impact of these on others;
- Recognizing and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others;
- Celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love;
- Recognising the importance of marriage and family life;
- Fidelity in relationships.

To develop the following person and social skills:

- Making sound judgements and good choices which have integrity and which are respectful of the individual's commitments;
- Loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying;
- Managing emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, with confidence, sensitivity and dignity;
- Managing conflict positively, recognizing the value of difference;
- Cultivating humility, mercy and compassion, 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, recognizing the influence and impact of the media, internet and peer groups and so developing the ability to assess pressures and respond appropriately;
- Being patient, delaying gratification and learning to recognizing the appropriate stages in the development of relationships, and how to love chastely;
- Assessing risks and managing behaviours in order to minimize the risk to health and personal integrity.

To know and understand:

- The church's teaching on relationships and the nature and meaning of sexual love;
- The Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- The centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- The physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;
- The facts about human reproduction, how love is expressed sexually and how sexual love has an essential and sacred role in procreation;
- How to manage fertility in a way which compatible with their stage of life, their own values and

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commitments, including an understanding of the difference between natural family planning and artificial contraception.

- How to keep themselves safe from sexually transmitted infection and how to avoid unintended pregnancy, including where to go for advice.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

St. Mary's acknowledge that all people are equal in the sight of God and in line with our school's Mission Statement; teacher's medium and short term planning will attempt to ensure that the requirements of the S.R.E. Curriculum will be offered to every child regardless of gender, race or physical handicap wherever possible. By these means we aim to provide each child with access to the full curriculum entitlement, thereby assisting them to achieve their full potential in SRE. We are committed to working towards equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life.

We will ensure SRE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and person circumstances; for example their own sexual orientation.