



Personal Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Committee Name:	Curriculum
Date of Approval:	March 2016
Validity Date:	2016-2018
Person responsible:	Head Teacher

As a school family we recognise there is a need to provide a curriculum in Personal Relationships and Sex Education that is authentic to the Church's teaching and acknowledges pupils' stage of physical and sexual development. We are created out of love and have the capacity to give and receive love. All our young people are called to some particular vocation in the Church. They all have their unique gifts and are called to occupy a particular place within God's plan. This is their dignity as sons and daughters of God.

Within the latter part of Key Stage Two the Personal Relationships and Sex Education Curriculum forms a more explicit and formalised series of lessons. These have several main aims:

- To build upon pupils' prior understanding of their physical and emotional development
- To promote ways in which young people can examine contemporary stereotypes of masculine and feminine behaviour and assume responsibility for their actions
- To provide children with accurate information in appropriate language
- To promote pupils' self esteem and understanding of the dignity and worth of each person made in the image of God

Sex education will be taught within the context of relationships and within the wider context of the whole curriculum of our Catholic school with its moral and spiritual foundations. Education in sexuality is of its nature "cross-curricular". All subjects have a role to play and all members of our school community, by virtue of the relationships they foster within our school, contribute to education in sexuality. The planning, teaching and assessment of the aims and specific objectives in relation to the school's Personal Relationships and Sex Education Policy will be the responsibility of the class teacher in the first instance. Teachers will be responsible for ensuring they are thoroughly familiar with the particular Personal Relationships and Sex Education programme in Year 5 and 6, in addition all staff will receive training as appropriate. All staff will have the opportunity to seek support as they judge necessary in order to deliver the curriculum to the class as a whole.

Parents have the first responsibility for educating their children, both in the faith and their social interactions with others. The whole of childhood is a movement of gradual independence in which children learn how to live effective lives. They have to learn how to identify, acknowledge and manage a range of feelings. They have to learn how to live and work with

others. They have to learn how to make appropriate decisions and take responsibility for the decisions they have made. Year 6 parents will be invited to view the resources and this policy each year before implementation of the Personal Relationships and Sex Education Curriculum. Parents retain the statutory right, if they so choose, to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex education provided, except the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction required under National Curriculum science. This decision needs to be confirmed in writing to the Headteacher.

Within the context of Personal Relationships and Sex Education and beyond, during day-to-day adult and child interactions, questions may be asked that cannot all be legislated for within any Personal Relationships and Sex Education Policy. The key principles for the adult faced with the question should remain those outlined within this policy- specifically its first sentence: "that is authentic to the Church's teaching and acknowledges pupils' stage of physical and sexual development." School adults should consult with this policy, the available recommended resources and the Senior Leadership Team, in order to ensure that only appropriate and relevant information is provided.

"We must protect our children from ignorance and they should be given all the necessary information, and correct answers to their questions."

Bishops of England and Wales, Low Week Conference of 1987

Teachers conduct lessons in a professional and sensitive manner. However, if a child makes a reference that raises a concern (e.g. sexual or other abuse), then staff will always take the matter seriously and deal with it as set out in our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and speak one of the designated teachers for Safeguarding and Child Protection.