



St Monica's Catholic Primary School's Relationship and Sex Education Policy

Philosophy

Every child is a unique gift from God, with his or her own unique gifts.

“At St. Monica's, we strive to ensure that all children are offered the opportunity to develop to their full potential in individual, educational, moral, intellectual and spiritual needs.

“Our school aims to be a living community of work and prayer.”

We believe in supporting all staff, teaching and non-teaching, in meeting their individual needs and developing the staff as a team.

Approved by Governors:

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years or in line with any changes in legislation.

Introduction:

In this policy the Governors and teachers, in partnership with pupils and parents, set out their intentions about relationships and sex education (RSE). We set out our rationale for and approach to relationships and sex education in the school.

Context:

Catholic Schools are required to deliver RSE in accordance with the teaching of the Church. RSE is part of the mission of Catholic schools to educate the whole person. At St Monica's, RSE is taught as part of a holistic education which seeks to form as well as inform young people in preparation for adult life.

The Catholic Education Service have approved the Catholic RSE curriculum that we have adopted and plan to embed across our primary school. This curriculum is also in line with the guidance issued by the Department for Education.

Additional guidance can be found here:

<http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/relationship-sex-education>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-rse-and-pshe>

Dissemination:

The Relationships and Sex Education Policy will be shared with Governors and all teaching and non-teaching staff. A copy of the document will be available in the school office and available on the school website. Details of the content of the RSE curriculum will also be published on the school's website.

What is RSE?

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is lifelong learning about physical, moral, social and emotional development. It is the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care.

Aims:

Within a Catholic Context and in partnership with parents, we ensure that RSE:

- Is faithful to the Church's vision of human wholeness whilst recognising the contemporary context in which we live today;
- Provides a positive view of human sexuality and the dignity of the human person;
- Equips young people with the ability to make practical judgments about the right thing to do in particular circumstances;
- Explores and promotes virtues which are essential to promoting respect and dignity;
- Is delivered in an age appropriate way which reflects the development of the child;
- Is delivered as part of a cross-curricular programme;

- Is sensitive to the needs of the individual pupil and recognizes the mix of pupils with different sexual orientations, genders and family backgrounds in each class;
- Is viewed by Governors and teachers as an integrated part of the broad and balanced curriculum that Catholic School's offer;
- Is delivered by competent professionals who understands the Church's teaching.

The RSE Curriculum:

The RSE curriculum covers EYFS, KS1 and KS2 and is based on three CORE themes. These themes are:

- Created by love and God- exploring the individual. The Christian imperative to love self, made in the image and likeness of God, shows an understanding of the importance of valuing and understanding oneself as the basis for personal relationships.
- Created to love others- exploring an individual's relationships with others. God is love. We are created out of love for love. The command to love is the basis of all Christian morality.
- Created to live in community (local, national and global) – exploring the individual's relationships with the wider world. Human beings are relational by nature and live in the wider community. Through our exchange with others, our mutual service and through dialogue, we attempt to proclaim and extend the Kingdom of God for the good of individuals and the good of society.

Each theme covers the CORE strands of 'Education in Virtue' and 'Religious Understanding' as well as strands which cover the PSHE content of the theme.

At St Monica's the CES RSE curriculum is covered using a range of different resources throughout the year, these include: The Come and See curriculum, the Science National Curriculum, The Go-Givers PSHE lesson planning, our Statements to live by, NSPCC resources and the CES approved programme 'A Journey in Love' which promotes the teaching of the Catholic church.

The scheme 'A Journey in Love' is delivered in the first half of the Pentecost term across the school. The class teachers are responsible for the delivery of the scheme and the material is year group specific. External agencies and healthcare professionals may also have an input, although always in line with our school ethos and Church's teaching.

'A Journey in Love' content:

An aspect of the mystery of love is taught in each year group; children are encouraged to marvel at the wonder and beauty of God's creative love. This is reflected through a series of progressive developmental tasks, activities and reflections which focus on physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.

The following themes are covered in each year group:

Year Group	Learning Objectives
Nursery	Children to begin to know and understand that they are part of the wonder of God's love and creation
Reception	Children know and understand that God has made them unique and that although we are all different we are all special to him
Year 1	Children know and understand that they are growing and developing as members of their own family and God's family
Year 2	Children know and understand that they are growing and developing in a God-given community
Year 3	Children know and understand the virtues essential to friendship, e.g. loyalty, responsibility... and experience the importance both of forgiving and being forgiven and of celebrating God's forgiveness
Year 4	Children know and understand that they are all different and celebrate these differences as they appreciate that God's love accepts us as we are and as we change.
Year 5	Children know and become aware of the physical and emotional changes that accompany puberty-sensitivity, mood swings, anger, boredom, etc... and grow further in their understanding of God's presence in their daily lives.
Year 6	Children develop, in an appropriate way for their age, and understanding of sexuality and grow further in their appreciation of their dignity and worth as children of God.

In Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, RSE focuses on relationships and friendships, building self-esteem and avoiding conflict. Journey in Love teaches about the special uniqueness of each of one of us and how we experience God's love for us in our family, school and Parish communities where we feel safe and loved.

In Key Stage 2, we teach about life processes and the main stages of the human life cycle as part of Science in the National Curriculum. In Year 5, the Journey in Love programme ensures that both boys and girls know about the different parts of the male and female bodies and how their bodies change during puberty, including menstruation and the Year 6 curriculum explains how human life is conceived within a loving marital relationship.

Given the more detailed content of the Year 6 part of the programme, parents and carers of children in Year 6 may view the materials so they are aware that the Journey in Love programme is a mixture of teaching methods including:

- Biblical and theological reflections;

- reference points to the Church's teaching;
- accurate scientific information;
- use of literature to explore emotions and issues;
- key vocabulary;
- use of different spoken and written genres.

Children will be encouraged to avoid slang or family names or terms. Teachers will always use correct biological terminology.

Working with parents:

The school recognises that the overall responsibility for teaching children about sex and relationships lies with the parents but acknowledges that providing a well-planned programme of learning may allow specific subject matter to be discussed more easily. The school's RSE curriculum and details of 'A Journey in Love' are available on the school's website and will be discussed with parents during each Key Stages parents' meetings.

Education Act 1996 and Learning and Skills Act 2000 gives parents the right to withdraw children from any or all parts of the school's sex education programme which is taught outside of the compulsory Science National Curriculum. All our work is in keeping with the teaching of the Catholic Church but it is understood that a small number of parents may wish to withdraw their children and they should inform the Head Teacher stating that they wish to do so.

Members of staff conduct RSE education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes any disclosure which suggests they may be at risk or danger then safeguarding procedures will be put in place as a matter of child protection. (see Child Protection Policy)