



St. Luke's Catholic Primary School

RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

November 2017

We follow in the footsteps of Jesus as we live love and learn together.

Rationale

'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full'

(Jn.10.10)

We at St Luke's Catholic Primary School acknowledge that Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship, as well as Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), are all underpinned by a theology of relationship and are all encompassed in the title 'Relationships and Sex Education' (RSE).

Our belief in the unique dignity of the human person as made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in our school. Our approach to relationship and sex education therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and is presented positively and prudently.

Stemming from this vision of what it means to be human, we seek to educate the whole child: spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally, psychologically, and physically towards our understanding of Christian maturity.

Following guidance from our own Bishop and Diocese, the Conference of Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE, all relationship and sex education in our school will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned primarily with nurturing the human wholeness of our pupils.

All relationship and sex education 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 a 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.

Aims of Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

- To encourage pupils' growth in self respect, acknowledging we are all created in the image and likeness of God.
- To help pupils develop an understanding that love is the central basis of relationships
- To help pupils to understand the nature of relationships and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people.
- To develop pupils' confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.

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- To help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships
- To offer sex education in the wider context of relationships.
- To ensure that pupils protect themselves and ask for help and support when needed.
- To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty.
- To help pupils to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle.
- To prepare pupils to play an active role as citizens and to understand the Catholic vision of what it means to be citizens of the Kingdom/reign of God.

Delivery of R.S.E & Resources.

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the key persons for children (the foremost educators) when learning about relationships and sex. Our role and our programme simply complement their role in nurturing their children's human wholeness. RSE is delivered through our life style in school and through the subjects of Religious Education, Science and by way of a cross-curricular, integrated approach. The core of our teaching is delivered through the programme ***A Journey in Love*** which has been reviewed and approved by the school's governing body. This programme is delivered using age appropriate materials from Nursery. Parents may ask to see the materials used. A special opportunity to review resources will be made to parents in Years 5 & 6.

All elements of PSHE and Citizenship, whilst non-statutory at Key Stage 1 and 2, are covered. Significant aspects of sex and relationship education remain part of the National Curriculum for Science. These will be taught to all pupils.

We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to R.S.E. as the school, of its very nature operates through positive human relationships. We recognise value and greatly appreciate the contribution made by all members of staff in deepening the quality of our Christian community.

Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in R.S.E.. Careful consideration will be given to the wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in their care.

While we operate a whole school approach to Relationship and Sex Education through our R.S.E. Programme, pupils in Year Five will learn about the emotional and the physical changes of puberty. For this particular part of the curriculum, children will be taught separately in groups of girls and boys. The same approach will operate in Year Six when the children learn about conception.

Assessment Recording.

A record is kept in teacher's planning of the delivery of R.S.E.. The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the co-ordinator in accordance with the school's monitoring and evaluation policy. Pupils are given the opportunity for self-evaluation at an appropriate level for each year group.

Outside Agencies

The expertise of outside agencies (such as the school nurse) will be used appropriately to **support** the school's delivery.

Safeguarding Procedures

The school has procedures to deal with any sensitive issues or with children thought to be vulnerable. Staff will pass on any concerns of this nature to the designated child protection officer in school.

The Governing Body

The Governing body and Foundation Governors in particular recognise their responsibility to ensure the R.S.E. programme follows diocesan principles and reflects the Church's teaching

The role of Parents

The Church has always recognised that it is the privilege and the responsibility of parents to educate and inform their children in all matters pertaining to personal growth and development particularly in the sensitive area of their moral education and sexual development. The Church also recognises that many parents require help and support in this task from both schools and parishes. The Governing body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishops' Conference and will always ensure that:

- Parents are supported in their task.
- Parents are consulted and kept informed of the R.S.E. programme; its contents, evaluation and review and any subsequent developments.

Right of Withdrawal

It is our hope that parents would wish their children to be involved in the schools positive and prudent programme of relationship and sex education, following annual consultation regarding the school's approach. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from such lessons (excluding aspects from National Curriculum Science) after discussion with the headteacher.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored bi-annually by the R.S.E. Co-ordinator and will be reviewed bi-annually by the Governing Body. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.

This policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of Catholic Primary School. It will be reviewed by the Governors and headteacher in conjunction with all the staff two years from the date below.

Signed..... (Chairman of Governors)

Date.....

