



# THE FEDERATION OF ST ANNE'S AND ST MARTIN'S



## POLICY FOR EDUCATION IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

### A CATHOLIC BASED PROGRAMME

#### Why do we teach about Personal Relationships?

*The Bishop of England and Wales ask all schools to consider their role in Education for Personal Relationships.... So that our children and young people are given positive guidance and a true appreciation of all their human gifts.*

Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 1994

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 sex and relationship 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.

*The Catholic faith has a distinctive understanding of the human person, of true relationships and the nature of community. This understanding should be reflected in the way a Catholic school forms its policy and enables young people to grow, sharing the experience of belonging to a community with Gospel values.'*

Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 1994

As a Catholic community, we want to support pupils' personal and spiritual development by offering them a mature and well rounded approach to the difficult questions that they face with regard to the appropriate expression of their love for others. The unconditional loving intimacy of husband and wife is the model that Christ proposed and we bear witness to His teaching, while being able to understand that in our society and among our young people, different models and approaches may often arise.

The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school.

*"The inclusion of positive, person-centred education is at the heart of Catholic Christian education. This education is about the growth, development and journey of the whole human person towards becoming 'fully human, fully alive' as a unique creation made in God's image". (Education In Sexuality CES)*

We aim, therefore, to integrate a pupil's intellectual, spiritual, moral emotional, psychological and physical development and to assist progress towards Christian maturity.

## Rationale

- We, in the Federation of St Anne's and St Martin's Catholic Primary Schools, in partnership with the parents and the parish, wish to prepare the way for our children to develop a lasting and meaningful relationship with God through the spirit of the Catholic faith.
- We want to help each child realise their full potential so that they may make their own unique contribution to society.

## What are our Aims in teaching about Personal Relationships?

- To develop in pupils a sense of their own self-worth and uniqueness as created by God.
- To help pupils to understand the nature of relationships, that love is central to relationship and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people.
- To help pupils to come to a deeper understanding about themselves as they grow.
- To help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships
- To provide a programme of Education for Personal Relationships for pupils which supports parents in their key role as first and best educators of their children.
- To provide pupils with accurate, factual information about the reproductive process according to their age and level of understanding.
- To teach pupils about the importance of love and respect in relation to all relationships and *especially* sexual relationships and to set this in the context of family life and marriage.
- To teach pupils about responsibility for oneself and others.
- To develop an awareness of the importance of emotions, feelings, instinct and right judgment in relation to self-protection.
- To provide a supportive environment for Education for Personal Relationships to take place where questions can be asked and honestly answered.

## **Objectives**

- That through the Religious Education Policy of the school, the teaching and tradition of the Catholic Faith is observed and remains relevant through the various stages of development of the children.
- To develop a sense of worth in others and ourselves as followers of Christ.
- To help the children to develop the ability to communicate and express feelings.
- To be able to take responsibility for oneself and one's actions by cooperating with others in a group and as part of the school community (citizenship).
- Through all the good examples of curriculum development, to develop an enquiring approach to learning, leading to a fuller understanding of the tasks being undertaken.
- To satisfy natural curiosity in the areas of human, personal, social and spiritual development, children will be presented with challenges which:
  - examine their own life stance, religious attitudes, values and practices
  - lead to a deeper personal faith
  - enable them to respect the religious convictions of others.

## **Health Education**

- Through the topics of 'Learning and Growing as the People of God' our children will experience the Christian convictions of the sacredness of life, about human dignity and human society.
- Health Education will involve work on:
  - Growth
  - Personal care and hygiene
  - Food and diet
  - Our senses

## **Sex Education**

### **Programme of Study**

- Physical growth and development will be taught mainly through Science 'Life and Living Processes'. This teaching will however be placed within the Christian framework and traditions by the use of 'All that I am', a programme recommended by Birmingham Diocese, which specifically addresses the context of growth in personal relationships.

### **Home/School Liaison**

- We recognise that the education of children is the prime responsibility of the parents, and we respect their rights.
- Parents will be informed of the content of the Year 5 and Year 6 programme and will be given the opportunity to view all the materials we use.
- To enhance the (Sex and Relationships Education) programme children from year 5/6 will be shown extracts from the 'Living and Growing' Videos - Units 1 and 2. Where appropriate, boys and girls will have follow up sessions in separate gender groups to explain or discuss physical changes.

### **Child Withdrawal**

- It is our hope that parents would wish to be involved in the schools programme of sex education. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from this but not from those areas which are required by National Curriculum Science.
- Parents with concerns are invited in the first instance, to arrange an appointment with the school to discuss these concerns and see if they can be resolved. If the matter remains unresolved, parents need to notify the Governors of their intention to withdraw their child from the sex education programme.

### **Health and Safety**

- Our children will be encouraged to develop their knowledge and understanding of health and safety by being taught to recognise the hazards and risks in a variety of activities.
- As part of our safeguarding responsibilities we will teach children to use the internet safely and to be aware of the risks of sharing personal information, with a special focus day taking place each year to reinforce this knowledge.

- We will invite the local PCSO to provide workshop sessions for pupils in order to raise their awareness of a range of age appropriate issues from 'stranger danger' in Reception and Y1 to 'sexting' , exposure to drugs or exploitation in Y6.

### **Multicultural Education**

- Our children will be provided with opportunities to relate their own experiences and responsibilities to our multi-racial society and the world.
- There will be links with outside agencies such as Cafod, Catholic Children's Society and other world appeals.

### **Special Educational Needs**

- The children will be given the opportunities to consider the needs of every child as an individual.
- Teachers will enable children to question and challenge their attitudes and values towards those with special educational needs and those with physical and mental disabilities.
- Education in Personal Relationships may also involve our pupils in the wider issues of:
  - Justice and Peace
  - Equality of Opportunity
  - Gender Issues

### **Cross-Curricular Links**

- These themes will be explored in cross-curricular activities in all subjects, as an ongoing experience for all our children, taking into account their age, background and personal experiences.
  - as topics
  - through planned aspects of RE and Science
  - through adhering to and maintaining the school's ethos
  - through collective worship and pupil voice sessions.
  - through the use of story time, show and tell time and circle time.

- Through all these subjects it will be seen that we intend to involve all our children in a cross curricular approach to SRE.
- Individual topics will be covered in ongoing programmes of study throughout the school year at a variety of ideas and activities.
- They will be helped to evaluate what they are learning and identify ways of applying to life.

### **Monitoring and reviewing**

The curriculum committee of the governing body will monitor the SRE policy on an annual basis. If the policy appears to need modification, then the committee will report its findings and recommendations to the full governing body. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the SRE education programme, and comments will be recorded. It will also review the policy in the light of the dfe's proposed 2020 strategy on Sex and Personal relationships.

**Reviewed: January 2019**

**Review Date: January 2020**