



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

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Author:	A M Worrall			Version:	3
Approved by:	Standards and Curriculum Committee			Status:	Approved
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At St Vincent's, Gospel values are at the heart of all our policies and practices. The Staff and Governors worked together to produce the above statement.

Rationale

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

We 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 Religious Education 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.

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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
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- 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.

At St Vincent's Catholic School we believe that the pupils have a right to a curriculum which will help them to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally and also to prepare them for adult life.

Gospel values are the heart of our policies and practices. We hope that young people will be helped to develop personal sensitivities and abilities both now and in the future.

The policy will incorporate the education for personal relationships, embracing issues of Relationships and sex education (RSE) within the taught curriculum and the pastoral life of the school.

RSE

We believe that each pupil is entitled to experience a school climate in which the quality of relationships between staff and pupils, and between pupils themselves, is marked by honesty, personal identification, warmth, trust and security.

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Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught through our life style in school and through the subjects of Religious Education, Science and by way of a cross-curricular, integrated approach.

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. *(Parents are unable to withdraw pupils from such lessons.)*

Key Stage 1 (5-7)

- ✓ *That humans move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce;*
- ✓ *To name the main external parts of the body;*
- ✓ *That humans grow from babies into children and then into adults, and that adults can produce babies;*
- ✓ *To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and other pupils*

Key Stage 2 (7 – 11)

- ✓ *That the life processes common to humans and all animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction*
- ✓ *The main stages of the human life cycle.*

We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to RSE 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 RSE. 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 RSE Programme, pupils in Year 5 / 6 will learn about the emotional and the physical changes of puberty. For this particular part of the curriculum, children will be taught together.

Objectives:

- ✓ To have an awareness of where pupils are, in their own knowledge, understanding, and development so that their concerns can be identified.
- ✓ To engender growth in self-respect and self worth, recognising that each of us is created in the image of God.
- ✓ To explore the meaning and value of life, and give some appreciation of the values of family life.
- ✓ To encourage pupils to be aware of their attitudes and values and have a sense of responsibility for themselves.
- ✓ To provide a forum where pupils can share their concerns and offer a climate of support where they know they will be listened to sensitively.
- ✓ To enable pupils to reflect on their relationships and recognise the qualities that help relationships to grow and develop positively.
- ✓ have some understanding of and to give sensitive consideration to the beliefs values and cultures of others.

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- ✓ To enable pupils to have some understanding that love is central and the basis of meaningful relationships.
- ✓ To enable the pupils to recognise the importance of the choices they make and that they are responsible for the decisions they make.
- ✓ To help pupils be aware of peer, social and media pressures.
- ✓ To enable pupils to have some understanding of themselves, their own bodies and their emotional development, as they grow and change.
- ✓ To promote awareness of both male and female body changes including the changes in moods and feelings.
- ✓ To enable pupils to reflect on their relationships and recognise the qualities that help relationships to grow and develop positively;
- ✓ To have some understanding of and to give consideration to the beliefs, values and cultures of others;
- ✓ To provide a forum where pupils can share their concerns and offer a climate of support where they know they will be listened to sensitively;
- ✓ To correct misinformation;
- ✓ To give pupils the opportunity to recognise the implications of drug, solvent, alcohol and tobacco abuse;

Content headings for school programme

RSE(Relationships and Sex Education) will be taught using the Catholic DVD '*All about Me*'. Relationships will be explored through the SEAL programme, PSHE and the Religious Education curriculum, '*Come and See*'. Themes are repeated from year to year in greater depth, taking account of pupil's development .

Roles and Responsibilities

a) Governors

In accordance with the Education Act of 1993 the governing body will keep up to date the school's policy for Relationships and Sex education, in consultation with parents and will make copies of the policy available to them on request. They will make known to parents their right to withdraw their children from all or part of RSE provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum.

b) Teachers

All teachers have a duty of care for all pupils, not just the ones for whom they are directly responsible. As well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach RSE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school and within the guidance of this policy.

c) Parents

The Governors believe that the parents and guardians are pupils' primary educators, in partnership with the school.

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Part of our mission statement is '*to foster happy, caring relationships within the school which enables individuals to grow in confidence, dignity and self esteem*' and we will work in partnership with parents in order to achieve the aims and objectives set out in this policy.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from lessons outside the National curriculum Programmes of Study that explore sexuality.

Equal Opportunities

At St Vincent's Catholic School we are committed to working towards equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life. RSE will be delivered in line with the school's Equal Opportunities Policy, Equalities Policy and within an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Resources

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the key persons for children learning about relationships and sex; the foremost educators. Our role and our programme simply complement their role in nurturing their children's human wholeness. However, the role of parents and our day to day interactions in school are currently supported by the following curriculum resources:

Resources which are selected to support the programme will be free from cultural bias wherever possible and will avoid gender stereotyping. RSE will be available to all pupils regardless of gender, culture or disability.

Resources used will be approved by use by the Governing Body and are available for viewing by parents when requested.

Organisation of programme

RSE will be co-ordinated by the Year 6 teachers, under the leadership of the SEAL/PSHE co-ordinator, using the 'All about Me' materials and the use of external agencies such as school nurse or health visitor.

Delivery

- ✓ Through RE
- ✓ Through the SEAL/PSHE programmes of study
- ✓ Through planned aspects of Science.
- ✓ Through the use of Assembly, Story time, and Circle time.
- ✓ Through visits from parents and the school nurse.

Teaching methods

A variety of teaching methods and styles will be used. Single gender groups will be used as deemed appropriate and relevant especially in Year 6.

Specific Issues Statement

Working with parents

The school will consult with parents regarding the provision of the Sex Education Programme, which is appropriate for the age, ability and aptitude of their children.

Parents cannot withdraw their children from those aspects of sex education which form part of the national Curriculum. However they may withdraw their children from other parts of the Sex Education Programme.

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It is hoped that parents will choose not to withdraw their children and that they will share any concerns with the school before such action is taken.

Confidentiality

Teachers should not promise confidentiality.

Any disclosures eg reports of inappropriate behaviour of a personal nature must be reported to the Head teacher or other Senior Designated Person (SDP) and appropriate Child Protection and/or Safeguarding policy procedures will be adhered to.

Answering difficult questions

Pupils may ask difficult questions, which staff may not feel appropriate to answer. It is recommended that the pupil is referred to their parent/guardian on such occasions.

Dissemination of Policy

All members of staff and governors are conversant with the contents of this policy and agree to its contents.

A copy of this policy can be found in the Policy File in the Head teacher's Office .

A statement with regard to RSE is included in the School prospectus.

A copy of the Policy is available to any current or prospective parent, on request to the School.

By the end of Key Stage One:

Pupils should be able to:

- ✓ Understand the importance of valuing themselves and others.
- ✓ Recognise their membership of the family and recognise the roles of individuals in families.
- ✓ Understand growth and know themselves as male or female.
- ✓ Be able to name the external parts of the body (as appropriate for the age of the child).
- ✓ Recognise that babies have special needs.
- ✓ Appreciate relationships, friends, family, working together, sharing, and playing together.
- ✓ Have an awareness of personal health and safety and personal hygiene.
- ✓ Know about rituals that mark life (especially birth) marriage, death.
- ✓ Recognise a range of emotions and how we deal with them.
- ✓ To know about being safe.

Safeguarding Procedures

The school has procedures to deal with any sensitive issues or 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 RSE programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church's teaching

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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 EPR 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 (not included in National Curriculum Science) after discussion with the head teacher.

Monitoring and Review

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

- ✓ Value themselves as a child of God.
- ✓ Understand that they grow and change throughout life.
- ✓ Understand what is meant by relationships within families, friends and communities.
- ✓ Develop an appreciation of what is involved in bringing up children and what responsibilities parents have.
- ✓ Become aware of different patterns of friendship.
- ✓ Know the rituals celebrated in the church marking birth, marriage and death.
- ✓ Be aware of their changing emotions and the need to respect other peoples' emotions and feelings.
- ✓ Know and understand their own bodies and their need for personal hygiene.
- ✓ Appreciate that life is a special gift from God.
- ✓ Become aware of the choices they make and that there are good choices and wrong choices.
- ✓ Recognise the importance of forgiveness in relationships.
- ✓ Begin to know about and understand the changes that come about through puberty.
- ✓ Know the names of the parts of the body.
- ✓ Know the basic biology of human reproduction.

Safeguarding Procedures

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Summary

We hope at St Vincent's Catholic Primary School we provide a curriculum and environment that reflects upon the children's sexuality and relationships in ways which are truly respectful of themselves and others. We aim to react to people's life situations and events – the joys and the sorrows, the hopes and the uncertainties which are experienced therein – with warmth, patience, understanding and hopefully a little wisdom.

This Policy is also closely linked to the PSHE Policy, RE Policy, Science Policy, Safeguarding and Anti Bullying Policy.

This Policy will be reviewed every three years by staff and Governors.

This policy will be reviewed in April 2017.

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