



Holy Redeemer Catholic  
Primary School

# Sex Education Policy

Signed by:	
Head Teacher	Christina Hall
Chair of Governors	Alan Smith
Date Adopted	07.02.2018
Date of Review	06.02.2019

## **Mission Statement**

***Through the Holy Redeemer, we seek to grow in Faith and love and become great people who make a difference in our world.***

## **Introduction and Rationale**

Sexuality is God's gift to us. Pope John stated that, "sexuality is an enrichment of the whole person – body, emotion and soul – and manifests its inmost meaning in leading the person to the gift of self in love". In 1987 the Bishops Conference of England and Wales recommended that all Catholic schools review their "Education in Personal Relationships" programmes to ensure that their pupils were given positive guidance in sex education. They gave schools the duty and obligation to educate pupils to an understanding, appropriate to their age, of the processes involved in their physical and moral development and how that development should be tempered by the Church's moral teaching. In short, their understanding of themselves and their relationships with others should develop positively as they grow in maturity. The school's responsibility was thus placed side-by-side with that of the parents, the first educators of children in the areas of moral education and sexual development.

## **Aim**

The school seeks to provide a family life and sex education programme that helps pupils to live now and in the future within the principles of Catholic moral teaching, especially with regard to their own dignity, and that of others, as human beings.

## **Objective**

The key objective is to provide a teaching and learning programme designed –

1. To support the personal, physical, emotional and social development of all pupils.
2. To enable pupils to understand that they were made by God to love and to be loved, and that love is central to all meaningful relationships.
3. To help pupils to a knowledge and understanding of the values of family life and marriage.
4. To enable pupils to have an understanding of their physical and emotional development as they grow and change, complementing the education that is being given at home while recognising that pupils come from different backgrounds and have different levels of support from their families.
5. To explain the process of human reproduction appropriate to the age of the pupils and in line with the requirements of the National Curriculum.
6. To offer pupils a Catholic framework to help them make informed decisions.

## **Working with parents**

The school seeks to share with parents the family life/sex education programme. One element in this is that at certain times of the year parents will be invited to school to

discuss the content of the curriculum and how it will be delivered. They will be able to comment on any aspects of the programme and will be given an outline of the course their child will be following.

Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from any elements of the school's sex education programme, with the exception of those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Orders. This right will be respected and no sex education outside those areas stipulated by the National Curriculum orders will be taught without the prior consent of parents.

### **The annual programme of study for family life and sex education**

This programme is based on the **Diocesan Curriculum Strategy for RE, 'Learning and Growing as the People of God'**. It will be taught within the framework of the strategy, but will draw upon other areas of the curriculum in order to enrich pupil's learning. For example, the study of nature in science will lead naturally to a discussion about concepts such as reproduction and growth. Teachers will link the programme to the work they are following in other subjects as opportunities arise and they will also respond to pupils' questions on matters to do with family life and sex education in a way that is guided by their professional experience and their commitment to the Catholic ethos of the school.

The units relate to the units in the respective year booklets of the Diocesan Curriculum Strategy. The order in which they are taught will depend on the RE curriculum plan for that particular year group. As pupils grow older and mature they will be encouraged to ask more searching questions. Teachers will seek to answer these honestly and within the moral teaching of the Church, using the correct vocabulary where appropriate.

The programme being cross curricular, will not appear as a discrete subject but will be part of the Religious Education, Science and PSHE and Citizenship framework. The programme will extend over all years in the school and at each stage will be attuned to the respective needs and capabilities of the various age ranges. It will pay due regard to the special needs of both boys and girls respectively.

### **Resources**

As well as being taught within the RE framework, "Learning and growing as the people of God, we also use the "All that I am " programme for Year 5 and Year 6 provided by the diocese. This is mainly used in the Summer Term as children are prepared for transition. The school nurse is invited into the school as part of the programme. The materials provided are viewed and discussed before being used in the classroom.

### **Special Educational Needs**

Teachers recognise the sensitive nature of this subject and will plan the programme in different ways to meet the individual needs of the children, bearing in mind the age and maturity of the children.

## **Assessment**

Assessment of the subject is mainly through discussion (formal and informal). Other methods of assessment are used by the class teacher.

## **Monitoring and Review**

Family Life and Sex and relationship education is monitored on an annual basis. The curriculum committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents and teachers and modification to the policy is made as necessary.