

***OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL***



***RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX  
EDUCATION POLICY***

***Academic Year 2022-23***

## **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

**Christ at the centre, children at the heart**

We will promote this through the following areas:

### **SPIRITUALITY**

Forgiveness and reconciliation is at the heart of the school

Participating in daily prayer and reflection

Fulfilling the spiritual needs of the community

Supporting each individual on their spiritual journey

### **FAITH**

Catholic ethos is at the heart of school life

Catholic faith is nurtured in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church

Our children are engaged in the sacramental life of the church

Christian values and a sense of justice for the whole world are evident in the actions of the whole community

### **TEACHING**

Offering a wide range of learning experiences and opportunities

On-going professional development of staff

Delivering high quality education

Being good role models

Delivering a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum

Providing children with consistent rules and consequences

Nurturing each child's God given gifts and talents

We aim through these areas to have:

### **CHILDREN**

Children who are valued as individuals and encouraged to reach their full potential in a safe, loving and secure environment

Children who are confident and have high self esteem

Children who are well behaved, have good manners and feel valued

Children who have the freedom to express their opinions to enable a shared understanding of individuals' values and lifestyles

Children who take responsibility for their own learning

Children who are eager to learn and are prepared for the next stage in their school life

Children who respect the differences of others

### **COMMUNITY**

A community where good levels of communication exist between staff, children, parents, parish

A community where positive friendships and relationships are developed

A community where everyone treating each other with respect

A community where difficult questions are explored without fear or recrimination

A community where people work together to support each other

A community where each person feels accepted and valued

A community who understand that with rights comes responsibilities

A community who celebrate achievements and successes

Our Mission Statement commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural, emotional) and we believe that RSE is an integral part of this education. Furthermore, our school aims state that we will endeavour to raise pupils' self-esteem, help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes.

## **Consultation**

This policy has been produced in consultation with staff and parents/carers.

- questionnaires to parents / carers, after school meeting
- pupil voice group
- review of RSE curriculum content with staff
- consultation with wider school community i.e. school nurse

## **Rationale**

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

(John 10.10)

We are involved in relationships and sex education precisely because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person. 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. Our approach to RSE therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

At the heart of the Christian life is the Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in loving relationship and embracing all people and all creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God's gift, reflect God's beauty, and share in the divine creativity. RSE, therefore, will be placed firmly within the context of relationship as it is there that sexuality grows and develops.

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DfE, RSE will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils. It is centred on Christ's vision of being human as good news and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

All RSE 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.

## **Aim of RSE**

In partnership with parents, we aim to provide children with a "positive and prudent sexual education" which is compatible with their physical, cognitive, psychological, and spiritual maturity, and rooted in a Catholic vision of education and the human person.

## **To develop the following attitudes and virtues:**

- respect for the dignity of every human being – in their own person and in the person of others;
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodies;

- responsibility for one's actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others;
- celebrating the gift of life-long love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life;

**To develop the following personal and social skills:**

- making sound judgements and good choices;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships;
- managing emotions within relationships including when relationships break down;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy and compassion, learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures, recognising the influence and impact of the media, internet and peer groups;

**To develop the following knowledge and understanding:**

- the Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;
- the facts about human reproduction, how love is expressed sexually and how sexual love plays an essential and sacred role in procreation;

These will be covered through five overlapping themes – moral, spiritual, physical, emotional and social development.

**Inclusion and Differentiated learning**

We will ensure RSE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help. These questions will be responded to in the context of the school's inclusion policy.

## **Statutory Curriculum Requirements**

We are required to teach those aspects of RSE which are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science.

## **Equalities Obligations**

The governing body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, pregnancy, maternity, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked after children.

## **Broad Content of RSE**

Three aspects of RSE - attitudes and values, personal and social skills and knowledge and understanding will be provided in three inter-related ways: the whole school/ethos dimension; a cross-curricular PSHE approach and a discreet RSE curriculum.

## **Programme / Resources**

The main RSE programme will be *A Journey in Love*, McCrimmons 2008.  
The PSHE curriculum will be followed which is cross curricular (see appendix).

## **Assessment of RSE**

RSE will be assessed with reference to the Primary Curriculum Framework for PSHE including RSE as provided by Hexham and Newcastle diocese.

## **Parents and Carers**

Parents/carers are the primary educators of their children. They were consulted before this policy was ratified by the governors. They will be consulted at every stage of the development of any revision of the RSE programme, as well as during the process of monitoring, review and evaluation. Resources used by the school in the RSE programme will be made available each year for parents/carers to view.

Parents have *the right to withdraw* their children from RSE excepting those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they should notify the school by contacting the Headteacher in writing. The request will be made on a year by year basis. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning.

## **Teaching the Programme**

Class teachers have the responsibility for teaching PSHE and, as such, the RSE curriculum. On some occasions adults from other agencies will be used to deliver some aspects of RSE. Such visits will always complement the current programme and never substitute or replace teacher led sessions.

External visitors will be made clear about their roles and responsibilities whilst they are in school delivering a session. Visitors should adhere to our code of practice developed in line with the school visitor policy and will be required to ensure that all teaching is rooted in Catholic principles and practice.

## **Other Roles and Responsibilities regarding RSE**

Governors will:

- Draw up the RSE policy, in consultation with parents and teachers;
- Ensure that the policy is available to parents;
- Ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies, e.g., SEN, the ethos of the school and our Christian beliefs;
- Ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children;
- Establish a link governor to share in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, including resources used;
- Ensure that the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum science topics and the setting of RSE within PSHE.

### **Headteacher**

The headteacher takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the governing body, parents, the Diocesan Department for Education and the local authority, also appropriate agencies.

### **PSHE/RSE Coordinator**

The coordinator with the headteacher has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RSE and the provision of in-service training.

### **All Staff**

RSE is a whole school issue. All teachers have a responsibility of care; 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. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RSE. All staff have been included in the development of this policy and all staff should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them.

### **Children's questions**

The governors want to promote a healthy, positive atmosphere in which RSE can take place. They want to ensure that pupils can ask questions freely, be confident that their questions will be answered, and be sure that they will be free from bullying or harassment from other children and young people.

### **Controversial or Sensitive issues**

There will always be sensitive or controversial issues in the field of RSE. These may be matter of maturity, of personal involvement or experience of children, of disagreement with the official teaching of the Church, of illegal activity or other doubtful, dubious or harmful activity. The governors believe that children are best educated, protected from harm and exploitation by discussing such issues openly within the context of the RSE programme. The use of ground rules, negotiated between teachers and pupils, will help to create a supportive climate for discussion.

(See also *Sex and Relationship Guidance*, 4.5 'Dealing with questions' 0116/2000, Department for Education and Employment, July 2000 for more detail)

Some questions may raise issues which it would not be appropriate for teachers to answer during ordinary class time.

### **Supporting children and young people who are at risk**

Children will also need to feel safe and secure in the environment in which RSE takes place. Effective RSE will provide opportunities for discussion of what is and is not appropriate in relationships. Such discussion may well lead to disclosure of a safeguarding issue. Teachers will need to be aware of the needs of their pupils and not let any fears and worries go unnoticed. Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is a victim of or is at risk of abuse they are required to follow the school's safeguarding policy and immediately inform a safeguarding lead (SLT).

### **Confidentiality and Advice**

All governors, all teachers, all support staff, all parents and all pupils must be made aware of this policy, particularly as it relates to issues of advice and confidentiality.

All lessons, especially those in the RSE programme, will have the best interests of pupils at heart, enabling them to grow in knowledge and understanding of relationships and sex, developing appropriate personal and social skills and becoming appreciative of the values and attitudes which underpin the Christian understanding of what it means to be fully human.

Pupils will be encouraged to talk to their parents/carers about the issues which are discussed in the programme. Teachers will always help pupils facing personal difficulties, in line with the school's pastoral care policy. Teachers should explain to pupils that they cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, in matters which are illegal or abusive for instance. Teachers will explain that in such circumstance they would have to inform others, e.g., parents, headteacher, but that the pupils would always be informed first that such action was going to be taken.

### **Monitoring and review of the policy**

The RSE Coordinator will monitor provision by scrutinising plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils work. The programme will be evaluated biennially. Governors will carry out their own audit of the policy and will consider all such evaluations and suggestions before amending the policy. Parents will also be consulted. Governors remain ultimately responsible for the policy.

**As a Rights Respecting school, we ensure that the key principles: inclusion, nurture and respect are embedded in the Relationships and Sex Education policy.**

This policy will be reviewed every year by the headteacher, RSE coordinator, the governing body and staff. The next review date is Autumn 2023.



## Appendices

### A Governor Audit for Monitoring RSE

This checklist is to support the school's processes of self-evaluation and should be completed in partnership with governors and those responsible for RSE in the school.

Policy	Fully	Partly	Not Evidenced
The school has an RSE policy in place covering the content and organisation of RSE and how it will be taught and reviewed.			
The policy has been ratified by the full governing body within the last two years.			
The policy is consistent with the Catholic mission and ethos of the school and in accordance with Catholic teaching.			
Findings from any review and monitoring processes are written into the school improvement plan.			
Details of the RSE curriculum are published on the school's website.			
There is a designated member of staff responsible for RSE.			
There is a designated governor to monitor RSE.			
Programme of study	Fully	Partly	Not Evidenced
Governors are aware of how RSE is taught across the school.			
A range of appropriate RSE resources are used to meet the needs of all pupils.			
Clear, developmental programme of study identifies the elements of RSE taught across subjects and show how the requirements of RSE within PSHE and the National Curriculum are covered.			

Policy	Fully	Partly	Not Evidenced
Parents/carers are regularly made aware of how RSE is taught throughout the school.			
Implementation	Fully	Partly	Not Evidenced
Parents/carers are provided with opportunities to view resources to be used when appropriate and informed of their right to withdraw their child from RSE lessons.			
The school supports parents who have withdrawn their child to deliver RSE at home.			
The policy is disseminated among staff (including support staff and chaplaincy), pupils and parents/carers and included in induction arrangements for new staff, pupils and prospective parents.			
All staff understand their role in the delivery of RSE.			
Staff training needs are audited to help determine the programme of CPD for RSE.			
The policy takes into account issues related to equal opportunities.			
Visitors to school used to support the RSE programme follow appropriate protocol.			
Notes			
Completed by:			Date:

## **Bibliography and Reading List**

### **Conciliar Decrees**

Second Vatican Council. Declaration on Christian Education (*Gravissimum Educationis*), October 28, 1965.

Second Vatican Council. Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et Spes*), December 7, 1965.

### **Documents of the Universal Church**

Catechism of the Catholic Church, (1994) 2004. Available at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2005. Available at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

### **Papal Documents (Chronological)**

Pius XI. Encyclical Letter *On Christian Marriage (Casti Connubii)*, December 31, 1930.

Paul VI. Encyclical Letter *On the Regulation of Birth (Humanae Vitae)*, July 25, 1968.

Paul VI. Apostolic Exhortation *On Evangelization in the Modern World (Evangelii Nuntiandi)*, December 8, 1975.

John Paul II. Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World (Familiaris Consortio)*, November 22, 1981.

John Paul II. Encyclical Letter *The Splendor of Truth (Veritatis Splendor)*, August 6, 1993.

John Paul II. *The Theology of the Body: Human Love in the Divine Plan*. Boston: Pauline Books & Media, 1997.

Benedict XVI. Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *The Sacrament of Charity (Sacramentum Caritatis)*, February 22, 2007.

### **Documents from Vatican Offices or Congregations**

Congregation for Catholic Education. *Educational Guidance in Human Love*, 1983. Available at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

Congregation for the Clergy. *General Directory for Catechesis*.

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. *Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation: Replies to Certain Questions of the Day (Donum Vitae)*, February 22, 1987. Available at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. *On Some Aspects of the Use of the Instruments of Social Communication in Promoting the Doctrine of the Faith*, March 30, 1992. Available at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

Pontifical Council for the Family. *The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality: Guidelines for Education Within the Family*, December 8, 1995. Available at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

Congregation for Catholic Education, *The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium*, December 1997. Available at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

*Relatio Post Disceptationem*, Post-discussion Report of the Extraordinary Synod on the Family, 13 October 2014. Available at [www.catholicerald.co.uk](http://www.catholicerald.co.uk)

### **Papal talks and addresses**

Pope John Paul II, General Audience, 16 January 1980

Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life), 25 March, 1995

Pope Benedict XVI, *Interview Of The Holy Father Benedict XVI In Preparation For The Upcoming Journey To Bavaria* (September 9-14, 2006), Apostolic Palace of Castel Gandolfo, Saturday, 5 August 2006

Benedict XVI, *Address of the Holy Father to Teachers and Religious*, Chapel of St Mary's University College, Friday 17 September 2010

Address of his Holiness Benedict XVI on the occasion of *Christmas greetings to the Roman Curia Clementine Hall*, Friday, 21 December 2012

### **Bishops' Conference of England and Wales**

Low Week Statement, *Laying the Foundations for Education in Personal Relationships*, 1987

'Learning to Love' An introduction to Catholic Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) for Catholic Educators, March 2017

### **Bishops of England and Wales**

Archbishop Vincent Nichols, *Pastoral Letter*, October 2014

Bishop Malcolm McMahon, OP, *A Statement on Relationships*

### **Government Documents**

*Sex and Relationship Education Guidance*, 0116/2000, Department for Education and Employment, July 2000

Welsh Assembly Government, *Sex and Relationship Education in Schools, Circular 019/2010*, (Cardiff: Welsh Assembly, 2010)

### **Other supportive documents**

*Education for Love, Catholic Education Service, 1994*

*Young People Sex and Relationships, the New Norms*, a report by the Institute of Public Policy Research, August 2014, Imogen Parker.