

EDUCATION IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

At St. Francis 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. 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. Sex education is integral to this process. We recognise that Education in Personal Relationships is a shared responsibility between home and school and is based on a scheme that all are comfortable to use:-

- the parent in the home environment
- the teacher in the classroom
- and the child in both

Sex education is more than just biological facts and hygiene. It has a moral, legal, spiritual, social and cultural dimension. Knowledge of how the human body functions is important, but so are feelings about love, sexuality and responsibility towards oneself and others.

Aims:

- ◆ To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils in the light of the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- ◆ To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- ◆ To contribute to the development, growth and journey of the whole person towards becoming "fully human, fully alive" as a unique creation made in God's image.
- ◆ To work towards these aims in partnership with the parents.
- ◆ To follow a sex education programme that will reflect the school ethos and Mission Statement. It will also demonstrate and encourage the following values:
 - ◆ Respect for others.
 - ◆ Respect for self.
 - ◆ Responsibility for their own actions.
 - ◆ Responsibility for their own family, friends, school and wider community.

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.
 - ◆ To have some understanding of and to give sensitive consideration to the beliefs values and cultures of others.
 - ◆ To enable pupils to have some understanding that love is central and the basis of meaningful relationships.
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- ◆ 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 fertility including the changes in moods and feelings.
- ◆ To explain the process of human procreation, within the context of marriage and family life.
- ◆ To provide a moral framework for children to understand better the physical and emotional consequences of sexual relationships.
- ◆ To enable pupils to reflect on their relationships and recognize 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 recognize the implications of drug, solvent, alcohol and tobacco abuse;

Content headings for school programme.

Sex education will be taught using the Catholic Scheme of work "In the Beginning". Topics and themes may be repeated from year to year in greater depth taking account of pupil's development and our RE scheme of work, "Here I Am".

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 Sex and Relationships Education, in consultation with parents and will make copies of the policy available to them. They will make known to parents their right to withdraw their children from all or part of SRE provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum.

b) Teachers

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 SRE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching SRE.

c) Parents

Recognising that parents are the primary educators of their children the school will seek to support them in this task. They will ensure that parents are kept informed of what is happening in SRE and of our experience of their children.

Equal Opportunities

At St. Francis School we are committed to working towards equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life. Sex education will be delivered in line with the school's Equal Opportunities Policy and within an atmosphere of mutual respect. Resources selected to



support the programme will be free from cultural bias wherever possible and will avoid gender stereotyping. Sex education will be available to all pupils regardless of gender, culture or disability.

Organisation of programme.

Sex Education will be co-ordinated by the Headteacher

At present all members of staff are committed to delivering the programme.

Delivery.

- ♦ Through RE
- ♦ Through the SEAL programme
- ♦ Through planned aspects of Science.
- ♦ Through the use of Assembly, Story time, and Circle time.
- ♦ Through occasional visits from parents, siblings, 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.

Resources.

A range of materials will be used. They will be available for parents to see if requested. Any significant changes in the use of resources will be approved by the Governing Body.

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 two years by staff and Governors.

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. 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. Parents should contact the Head teacher if they have any concerns.

Confidentiality

Teachers should not promise confidentiality.

Any disclosures eg reports of inappropriate behaviour of a personal nature must be reported to the Head teacher and it is the Head teacher's decision, in conjunction with the Governors, whether to advise the parents.

Answering difficult questions.

An explicit or difficult question may be asked in the classroom.

Questions do not have to be answered directly, or the pupil is referred back to the parent.



Dissemination of Policy

All members of staff and governors will receive a copy of this Policy.

A copy of this policy can be found in the Policy File in the Headteacher's Office and in the Staff Room.

A statement will be included in the School prospectus.

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

By the end of Key Stage 1

Pupils should be able to:

- Understand the importance of valuing themselves & others.
- Recognise their membership of the family & 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 & safety and personal hygiene.
- Know about rituals that mark life (especially birth) marriage, death.
- Recognise a range of emotions & how we deal with them.
- To know about being safe.

By the end of Key Stage 2

Pupils should be able to:

- Value themselves as a child of God.
 - Understand that they grow & change throughout life.
 - Understand what is meant by relationships within families, friends & communities.
 - Develop an appreciation of what is involved in bringing up children & what responsibilities parents have.
 - Become aware of different patterns of friendship.
 - Know the rituals celebrated in the church marking birth, marriage & death.
 - Be aware of their changing emotions and the need to respect other peoples' emotions & feelings.
 - Know & 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 & understand the changes that come about through puberty.
 - Know the names of the parts of the body.
 - Know the basic biology of human reproduction.
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