

### **DRAFT- St Joseph's Relationships and Sexual Education Policy**

### **School Mission**

*“Caritas Christi Urget Nos: The love of Christ spurs us on.”*

Inspired by our Christian faith, our mission is to provide the highest standard of education and opportunity for all our students, enabling them to live their lives to the full.

In pursuing this aim, we create an environment in which the intellectual, physical, social, moral and spiritual development of every student is able to flourish. As a result, students strive for the highest standards in all endeavours, being able to achieve success and prepared to make their own positive contribution to our world.

### **Why is RSE in Catholic Schools important?**

RSE is part of the mission of Catholic schools to educate the whole person. It should be carried out as part of the holistic education which seeks to form as well as inform young people in preparation for adult life.

Relationships and Sex Education draws upon the existing knowledge provided by parents, carers and where appropriate, other schools that our pupils have previously attended. We base sex and relationship education on the criteria of our Mission Statement in that we provide a caring atmosphere in which the content can be sensitively and practically delivered. This content is geared to the needs of each individual pupil so enabling them to become independent, make choices and become fully integrated members of society. Full attention is given to the spiritual and moral context of sex education. As Catholic school we help provide the knowledge of sexuality that is focused on the teachings of the Church and their links to our own faith and resultant values.

### **Our RSE policy will**

* Be faithful to the Church's vision of human wholeness whilst recognising the contemporary context in which we live today;
* Involve parents as they are primary educators of their child;
* Provide a positive view of human sexuality and dignity of the human person;
* Equip young people with the ability to make practical judgments about the right thing to do in particular circumstances;
* Explore and promote virtues which are essential to promoting respect and dignity;
* Be delivered in an age appropriate way which reflects the development of the child;
* Be part of the cross-curricular work in both primary and secondary schools;
* Be sensitive to the needs of the individual pupil and recognise the mix of pupils with different sexual orientations, genders and family backgrounds in each class;
* Be taken seriously by governors and teachers as an integrated part of the broad and balanced curriculum that Catholic schools offer;
* Be delivered by competent professionals who understand the Church's teaching.

**Specific Aims**

* To help and encourage our pupils to get to know and understand themselves more fully.
* To deepen their awareness and understanding of others.
* To give the pupils a positive view of themselves spiritually, emotionally and physically.
* To teach pupils to understand the physical development of their own bodies and those of the opposite sex.
* To encourage the pupils to understand sexuality within the context of a loving relationship.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

**Parents**

Acknowledgement that parents are the first and best educators of their children and that the school works in partnership with them. They have the right to be consulted before a Relationship and Sex Education programme is embarked upon.

**Governors**

Have responsibility for ensuring there is a Relationship and Sex Education policy, in consultation with teachers and parents, which is in keeping with Catholic teaching. If necessary they will provide guidelines for the teaching of sensitive issues. Governors will ensure that the programme and the resources are monitored and evaluated.

**Subject Leader**

Advise governors on the content and organisation of Relationships and Sex education.

Contribute to reviewing existing provision.

**Teachers**

Use professional skills in developing the curriculum.

Draw on help and guidance from relevant sources, e.g. health professionals.

Teach and Relationship and Sex education curriculum as detailed in the scheme of work.

Participate in monitoring and evaluating Sex and Relationship education.

## **Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales RSE Documents**

The Bishops’ Conference Department of Catholic Education and Formation have produced two documents ([Learning to Love](https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/images/Learning2love.pdf.pdf) and [Relationship and Sex Education in Catholic Schools](https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/images/RSE_in_Catholic_Schools_FAQs_Revised_by_MS_V2_27.10.2020.pdf)) to assist parents and schools in the delivery of high-quality Catholic Relationship and Sex Education.

Parents are the primary educators of their children, especially when it comes to sensitive topics such as RSE. Therefore, Catholic schools must collaborate extremely closely with parents to ensure RSE is delivered in an appropriate way.

These documents will assist in this essential dialogue, informing parents as to why the Bishops consider RSE to be an essential part of the formation of the whole child and how it can be delivered in a manner authentic to Church teaching.

**Provision of Programme**

All SoL and Resources have been resources using diocesan approved providers. Responsibility for the policy and provision of Sex and Relationship education rests with the governing body. The Head teacher carries delegated responsibility and is supported in the oversight of the programme. All staff have some responsibility for the Relationship and Sex education programme, supported by named member(s) of staff who have specific responsibility for this area of the curriculum.

**Monitoring and Review**

The policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s policy review cycle and in the light of national and local changes. It will then be presented to the Governors.