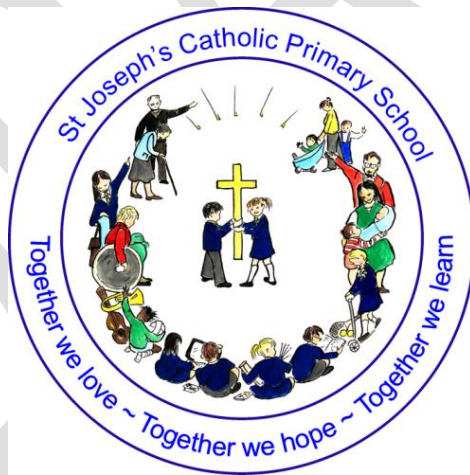




St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

RSE Policy (Relationships and Sex Education Policy)



May 2016

To be reviewed October 2019

School Vision & Mission Statement

“Together we love - Together we hope - Together we learn.”

St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School is an inclusive, vibrant, Catholic community where we encourage everyone to share a love of learning and the love of Christ.

Together, we hope to inspire each other to achieve our full potential and to embrace our future with confidence.

Rationale:

At St. Joseph’s 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. Relationships and sex education (**RSE**) is integral to this process. We believe that each pupil is entitled to experience a school in which the quality of relationships between staff and pupils, and between pupils themselves, is marked by honesty, personal identification, warmth, trust and security.

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

Aims:

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all of the pupils in accordance with our school ethos
- 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.

The school works towards these aims in partnership with parents. The RSE programme will reflect the school ethos and the Mission Statement. We demonstrate and encourage the following values:

- Respect for others
- Respect for self
- Responsibility for one’s own actions
- Responsibility for one’s own family, friends, school and wider community.

Equal opportunities:

At St. Joseph’s School, we are committed to the equality of opportunities for all pupils and stakeholder. RSE will be delivered in line with the School’s Equal Opportunities and Racial Equality Policies and within an atmosphere of mutual respect. Resources selected to support the programme will be free from cultural bias whenever possible and avoid gender stereotyping. RSE will be available to all pupils regardless of race, gender, culture or disability.

Implementation

At St. Joseph’s we follow the RSE scheme Journey in Love as recommended by Clifton Diocese, (topics for each Year group can be seen on our website). We also follow the National Curriculum in PHSE, E-Safety and Science in which Health and well-being, relationships and living in the wider world are covered through class teaching, assemblies and outside speakers. Our R.E. curriculum ‘God matters’ also enables our pupils to relate all the above to our Christian Ethos.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governors

Governors have the responsibility for ensuring there is a RSE policy which is in keeping with Catholic teaching, in consultation with parents and teachers. They must ensure the policy is available to parents. Training and inset for all staff needs to be provided to help them understand the Church's teaching in this area. They must provide sufficient resources to see that the topic is taught correctly, creatively and sensitively, and monitor and evaluate the programme.

Parents

Recognising that parents are the primary educators of their children the school will seek to support them in this role and work in partnership with them. The school will ensure that parents are consulted and informed about the RSE programme, given information and invited to meetings.

Parents should have the opportunity to examine the RSE programme. They have the right to be consulted before any policy document and programme is ratified by the governors. Parents will be encouraged to talk to their children about lessons at school and to listen to their questions and thoughts.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from the statutory RSE curriculum.

Teachers

As role models in the school community a teacher's role is to value and affirm all pupils; actively promoting open and wholesome relationships; developing gospel values and effective pastoral systems; and provide positive, accurate learning about relationships and sex. All teachers must be aware of the school's policy and curriculum for RSE education. Teachers should teach the RSE programme as detailed in the schemes of work and make sure their own understanding of the teaching of the Church is clearly developed. Teachers should advise governors on the content and organisation of the RSE curriculum and participate in monitoring it.

Head teacher

The Head teacher will work in conjunction with governors, parents and teachers to ensure that a RSE programme that is in line with the ethos of the school is delivered to pupils. The Head teacher will be responsible for ensuring the programme is monitored and reviewed and resources kept up to date. Together with the governors, the Head teacher will ensure the RSE policy is in place and regularly reviewed. The Head teacher will ensure that parents receive appropriate information about RSE and have access to the programme and policy; and that staff receive all necessary training.

Answering difficult questions

An explicit or difficult question may be asked in the classroom. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be answered individually later, some questions might need referral back to the child's parents.

Safeguarding

If a child were to disclose a safeguarding issue as part of an RSE lesson, staff would follow the normal safeguarding procedure and report the issue to the DSL or to a member of the safeguarding team in the DSL’s absence.

Dissemination of this policy

All members of staff have access to a copy of this policy on the School’s web site. A copy of this policy can also be found in the staff room and in the curriculum policy folder. A copy of the policy is available to any current or prospective parent, on request to the Head.

Approved by Governing Body

Date.....

It is agreed by the governing body that this policy will be reviewed every 2 years unless any recommendations from the DFE/Diocese are received that need incorporating immediately.

