



## ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



### Sex and Relationships Policy

**Approved by: Full Governing Body**

**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

#### **Aim**

As a Catholic School, at the heart of our faith is love. In teaching Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) we aim to explore physical, emotional, intellectual and social growth in the context of love; love of God, love of self and love of others. This approach is founded on a realisation that:

- Every human life has an intrinsic and absolute value through being created by God and in the image and likeness of God
- This value derives from the simple fact of existing and is not dependent on an individual's age, abilities, social acceptability or any other characteristic
- Self-respect and respect for each other must underlie all human relationships

Sex and Relationships Education is a lifelong process of acquiring information and forming attitudes, beliefs and values about sexual identity, friendships, relationships, emotions and intimacy. We work towards this aim in partnership with parent/carers.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

#### **Objectives**

SRE at St Patrick's School contributes to the foundation of personal and social development by ensuring that all children:

- develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- are able to name parts of the body and describe how their bodies work
- can protect themselves and ask for help and support
- are prepared for puberty
- develop the skills and confidence to enable positive discussions about sexuality and sex and relationships as they get older in preparation for adult life.

#### **Guidelines**

##### **Scheme of Work**

SRE is taught in the context of relationships. Topics and themes are repeated from year to year in greater depth taking account of the pupils' development. Each year group covers physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspects of growth. 'A Journey of Love', a developmental programme for children in the primary years, which is in accordance with the social and moral teachings of the Catholic Church, is used as the basis for SRE in schools.

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The SRE programme:

- provides information which is easy to understand and relevant and appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils
- includes the development of skills, e.g. listening, observing, relating, speaking, respecting, reflecting, understanding, classifying, questioning, empathising, communicating, presenting, evaluating
- encourages the exploration of values and attitudes
- encourages awareness, respect and responsibility for self and others

### **Sequence for Teaching Sex Education**

#### **Foundation Stage: God Loves Us in our Uniqueness**

Objective: Children know and understand that God has made them unique and that although we are all different we are all special to him.

#### **Year One: We meet God's Love in Our Family**

Objective: Children know and understand that they are growing and developing as members of their own family and God's family.

#### **Year Two: We meet God's Love in the Community**

Objective: Children know and understand that they are growing and developing in a God-given Community.

#### **Year Three: How We Live in Love**

Objective: Children know and understand the virtues essential to friendship e.g. loyalty, responsibility and experience the importance both of forgiving and being forgiven and of celebrating God's forgiveness. Children focus on ways of growing healthily and keeping safe.

#### **Year Four: God Loves Us in Our Differences**

Objective: Children know and understand that they are all different and celebrate these differences as they appreciate that God's love accepts us as we are and as we change. Children understand that all pupils grow and develop at different rates. They are introduced to the development of the baby in the womb.

#### **Year Five: God Loves Me in My Changing and Development**

Objective: Children know and become aware of the physical and emotional changes that accompany puberty e.g. sensitivity, mood swings, anger, boredom etc., and grow further in their understanding of God's presence in their lives.

Children are introduced to the different body parts of girls and boys. They discuss the internal and external changes that happen to boys and girls in puberty. They recognise that sexual development is a natural part of human

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growth and that physical changes from child to adult means the ability and potential to become a mother or father.

### **Year Six: The Wonder of God's Love in Creating New Life**

**Objective:** Children develop in an appropriate way for their age, an understanding of sexuality and grow further in their appreciation of their dignity and worth as children of God. Children understand how human life is conceived.

### **Implementation- Opportunities for Learning**

- a) SRE will be taught:
  - as specific topics
  - through planned aspects of Science
  - through pastoral time including circle time
  - during assembly time
  - through visits from the school nurse and other health professionals
- b) Pupil groupings

Pupils are taught in mixed ability and mixed gender groups for the majority of the SRE programme. However, when there is a specific need (e.g. sensitivity of the topic), arrangements will be made to teach pupils in alternative appropriate groupings such as single gender groups.
- c) Time available

SRE is taught in every year group.
- d) Assessment Class teachers are responsible for assessing children's participation and understanding of units covered.

### **Specific Issues**

- a) Confidentiality and personal disclosures

Any issues in this area should be dealt with in line with the School's Safeguarding Policy.
- b) Relationships and Family Life

Through SRE, pupils learn about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children. St Luke Academies Trust Page 5 of 5 recognises that there are also strong and mutually supportive relationships outside marriage. Staff will therefore approach this topic by emphasising the significance of marriage and stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society, with an emphasis on stability, respect, caring and support within relationships.
- c) Parental partnership

We share the responsibility of SRE with parents. The policy will be made available to all parents when their child enters the school.

In Years 5 and 6, parents receive additional information regarding the content of the SRE curriculum and have the opportunity to view video resources used and discuss any issues that may arise.

Under the Education Act 1993 parents have a right to withdraw their children from all or part of the SRE programme, except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum. Parents wishing to exercise this right are asked to make an appointment with the Head teacher to discuss the issues. If this is not possible, parents are required to put this withdrawal in writing before it can be acted upon. (Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part without written parental permission). The school will make alternative arrangements for any such pupils.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Effectiveness of the whole school policy will be monitored by the member of staff with responsibility for SRE and by the leadership team. This policy will be reviewed annually and parents will be consulted on its content from time to time.