



St John Fisher Catholic High School

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

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Defining Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

The DfE defines Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) as ‘lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about understanding of the importance for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care, including the teaching of sexuality and sexual health.’ It is about the development of the pupil’s knowledge and understanding of her/himself as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with God, self and others, and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience.

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) has three main elements:

- Attitudes and values
- Personal and social skills
- Knowledge and understanding

St John Fisher Catholic High School Mission Statement

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, 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.

In partnership with parents/carers, we aim to provide pupils 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.

In promoting its Mission Statement, St John Fisher Catholic High School will ensure that pupils develop a coherent understanding of the values of the Gospel and the teachings of the Catholic Church on the dignity of life. At the heart of Christian life is the Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in loving relationships and embracing all people and all creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are made in the image of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God’s gifts, reflect God’s beauty, and share in the divine creativity. RSE will be placed firmly within the context of relationships, as it is there that sexuality grows and develops. All staff will promote positive relationships through the modelling of our interactions with others.

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales, and as advocated by the DfE, RSE will be 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. RSE will be delivered by several departments as part of their curriculum.

Statutory Curriculum Requirements

The statutory framework that surrounds education about human relationships largely falls within three key areas:

- The National Curriculum (2014)
- Statutory Guidance: ‘Sex and Relationships Education Guidance’ (2000)
- The Children’s Act (2004)

	State Funded Maintained Schools	Academies and Free Schools
Whole Curriculum	Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:-promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society; -prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.	
Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education	Department for Education: All schools should make provision for PSHE, drawing on best practice. Schools are free to develop their own PSHE programme to reflect the needs of their pupils.	
Sex and Relationships Education	Statutory for secondary aged children to have sex education that includes HIV, Aids and other sexually transmitted infections.	
Sex and Relationships Education Guidance	Any school that provides SRE has a statutory duty to have due regard to Sex and Relationships Education Guidance DfEE 2000.	
National Curriculum	Statutory sex education forms part of the science programmes of study across Key Stages 1-3.	
Sex and Relationships Education Policy	DfEE Guidance (2000) states that all schools should have an up to date SRE policy available for inspections and on request for parents or carers.	SRE policy is advisable but not compulsory.

At St John Fisher Catholic High School, we aim to meet all of the requirements set out in the table above.

Aims and Objectives:

RSE at St John Fisher Catholic High School aims to meet the statutory requirements while also encouraging pupils to consider the views of the Catholic Church and the value of the human person.

The main aim of the RSE programme is to provide teaching opportunities that are founded on Catholic teachings.

The school aims to provide a RSE programme that will:

- Be a well-structured and in keeping with the teachings of the Catholic Church that will enable each pupil to grow and develop into a unique individual made in God's image.
- Correct misunderstandings and enable pupils to recognise the importance of the choices they make.
- Encourage pupils to be aware of their attitudes and values and to have a sense of responsibility for themselves.
- Develop and enhance pupils' understanding of their physical, emotional and spiritual development.
- Develop and enhance teachers' subject knowledge.
- Create opportunities for pupils to consider their knowledge, attitudes and behaviour, in the light of the Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church, so that they can make informed choices and live out their lives as members of the Catholic family.
- Ensure that all pupils, regardless of individual differences, are able to access sex and relationship education.

Present Position

We will provide all of our pupils with a programme of RSE in accordance with our responsibilities as a Catholic School and statutory requirements. The programme will rest upon the precepts of the Catholic Church's teachings on sex and relationships. Pupils will be taught the sexual "facts of life" within the framework of moral responsibility provided by marriage. They will be educated in health and hygiene matters that pertain to sexual matters and of the dangers associated with promiscuous behaviour, including sexually transmitted diseases.

Inclusion and Differentiated Learning

At St John Fisher, we will ensure that RSE is sensitive to the needs of individual pupils. We recognise and will take into consideration the different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances of our pupils. RSE will be taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help. Teaching methods will be adapted to meet the varying needs of all pupils.

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.

Integrated curriculum

The RSE programme will promote Catholic values and virtues in accordance with Church teaching and ensure that pupils are offered a range of viewpoints on issues. Pupils will also receive clear scientific information as well as covering aspects of law pertaining to RSE (in secondary schools relating to forced-marriage, female genital mutilation, abortion, the age of consent and legislation relating to equality). We will ensure that pupils have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.

Roles and Responsibilities

Parents/carers

We recognise that parents and carers are the primary educators of their children and they play a central role in assisting their children's physical, spiritual and psychological growth in preparation for the challenges and responsibilities of adult life. As a Catholic school, we provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children. Parents/ carers will be informed by letter when sensitive aspects of RSE will be covered. This will allow parents and carers the time to talk and answer questions.

Withdrawal

The Governing Body recognises that RSE is intrinsic to Catholic Education. They also recognise and support the rights of parents to withdraw their child from RSE, except where it is part of the National Curriculum.

Governors

Governors will consult on the policy and approve the RSE policy in line with other policies. Governors will ensure that the policy is made available to parents and ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children. Governors will provide an effective system for the monitoring and evaluation of the RSE policy, programme and resources used.

Headteacher

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents and appropriate agencies.

SMSC/ RSE Co-ordinator

The coordinator, with the Senior Leadership Team line manager, 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.

Responsibility for teaching the specific RSE programme lies with the teachers of all subjects, in particular, Religious Education, Science, Physical Education and all teachers of SMSC.

The co-ordinator will monitor the provision of the RSE programme by conducting audits and inspecting schemes of work at regular intervals.

The programme will be evaluated annually by means of questionnaires and discussions with pupils, staff and parents; the results of the evaluation will be used to inform and amend future RSE planning.

Teachers of RSE

RSE is a whole school issue where every member of staff will actively contribute to the guardianship of the physical, moral and spiritual wellbeing of all pupils. Teachers are 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 will be role models for pupils.

Outside Agencies and External Staff

It is anticipated that professionals from outside agencies may be involved in delivering aspects of the sex education programme. Every visitor or professional speaker will be made aware of the school's policy and its Catholic ethos. To this end, great care will be exercised in the choice of external speakers.

The role of Pupils

Pupils should be willing to listen to the teaching of the Catholic Church and become aware of a variety of other views regarding moral issues related to RSE. They will be expected to have concern for, and accept responsibility for their knowledge and understanding of their sexual development.

Dissemination of the policy

The policy aims and objectives are available to all staff through the internal L:\ drive, in the policies folder. Parents will have access to this policy via the website or on application to the Headteacher. Governors will have access to the policy through the Pupil Welfare Committee and through the website.

Reviewing Process

In consultation with the Governing Body, the policy will be implemented in December 2017 and reviewed every two years by the Headteacher, PSHE Co-ordinator, the Governing Body and school staff.

The next review date will be **September 2019**.

The policy will be circulated to all members of the Governing Body and all members of staff, and is available on the school website.