



# **St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Banbury**

## **Relationship & Sex Education Policy**

We believe that:

- if we nurture gratitude in our pupils, they will practise generosity;
- if we nurture attentiveness in our pupils, they will practise discernment, make good decisions in their lives and accept responsibility for their actions;
- if we nurture compassion and love in our pupils, they will treat others with respect and they will learn to empathise with those who suffer poverty, injustice or violence;
- if we nurture faith and hope in our pupils, they will have the confidence to contribute positively to the communities in which they live and inspire others to be hopeful for the future;
- if we nurture eloquence and truthfulness in our pupils, they will be honest and respectful in their relationships with others;
- if we nurture wisdom and a desire to learn in our pupils, they will use their gifts and skills for the benefit of others and will contribute positively to others' lives;
- if we nurture curiosity in our pupils and engage them actively in their learning, they will become lifelong learners who are tolerant and respectful of difference and diversity;
- if we nurture a strong conscience in our pupils, they will have the confidence to lead by example, reflecting God's love to others and striving for harmony and equality in the communities around them.

## **Introduction**

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we celebrate the dignity of the human person and God's gift of life. In teaching the children relationships and sex education, we are preparing them for life as adults who will experience feelings of love, friendship, trust, commitment and responsibility.

All we teach is in the context of our Catholic Faith in order to:

- engender growth in self-respect and self-worth, recognising that each of us is created in the image of God;
- explore the meaning and value of life, and give some appreciation of the values of a family life;
- enable children to have some understanding that love is central and the basis of meaningful relationships;
- make it possible for the children to have some understanding of themselves, their own bodies, their emotional development, as they grow and change and help them to adjust to these changes;
- encourage children to be aware of their attitudes and values and have a sense of responsibility for themselves.

## **Values and Virtues**

Our RSE curriculum reflects the values of our school and our ethos as a Catholic school, and is taught in the context of relationships. In addition, RSE promotes children's self-esteem and emotional well-being and helps them to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships, based on respect for themselves and for others, at home, school, work and in the community. Every pupil should receive their full entitlement to RSE regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity or faith. We aim to provide a holistic education for all children, regardless of ethnicity, language, faith, gender or sexuality.

We aim to support children in their emotional, cultural and social, as well as academic development.

## **Defining Relationship and Sex Education**

The DfE guidance states that "children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way"<sup>1</sup>. It is about the development of the pupil's knowledge and understanding of her or him as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. In primary schools the focus should be on "teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults. This would include the topics of families and the people of who care for me, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe.

## **Statutory Curriculum Requirements**

We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSE which are statutory parts of the Science National Curriculum.

## **Rationale**

### **‘I HAVE COME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL’ (Jn.10.10)**

We are involved in relationships and sex education precisely because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person. The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Our approach to RSE therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church’s teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

At the heart of the Christian life is the Trinity; Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in loving relationship and embracing all people and all creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God’s gift, reflect God’s beauty, and share in the divine creativity. RSE, therefore, will be placed firmly within the context of relationship as it is there that sexuality grows and develops.

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE (and the Welsh Assembly Government) RSE will be firmly 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. It is centred on Christ’s vision of being human as good news and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

All RSE will be in accordance with the Church’s moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from. It will also prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

## **Aims**

To develop the following **attitudes and virtues**:

- reverence for the gift of human sexuality and fertility;
- respect for the dignity of every human being – in their own person and in the person of others;
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures;
- responsibility for their own actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others;
- celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life;
- fidelity in relationships.

To develop the following **personal and social skills**:

- making sound judgements and good choices which have integrity, and which are respectful of the individual's commitments;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying;
- managing emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, with confidence, sensitivity and dignity;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy and compassion, learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures, recognising the influence and impact of the media, internet and peer groups and so developing the ability to assess pressures and respond appropriately;
- being patient, delaying gratification and learning to recognise the appropriate stages in the development of relationships, and how to love chastely;
- assessing risks and managing behaviours in order to minimise the risk to health and personal integrity.

**To know and understand:**

- the Church's teaching on relationships and the nature and meaning of sexual love;
- the Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty.

**Programme & Resources**

We are using the "Life to the Full" programme which has been endorsed by the Catholic Education Service and produced by the Ten Ten Company. This organises the RSE curriculum for each phase of primary school including the Early Years. The materials for each phase are arranged into three modules:

1. Created and loved by God;
2. Created to love others;
3. Created to live in community.

We have decided to follow a pathway which allows the curriculum to be taught over two years. The curriculum is separate from the RE curriculum but enhances the units of work within RE.

**Parents**

We understand that parents are central to the children's RSE and that they are the first teachers of their children. We are committed to communicating and consulting with parents in order to ensure that they feel a part of the curriculum that we are delivering and so that they are also in a position to exercise their right to withdraw their children from a session should they choose to do so.

Date: September 2021  
Review: September 2023  
Headteacher: Clare P Smith  
Chair: Mary Cronin