



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy

RHSE POLICY 2021

Policy created	February 2021
Date to be reviewed	February 2023
Policy created by	A McIntyre

**St Mary's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy has a particular distinctiveness in that it seeks to represent the Gospel teachings of Jesus Christ and the teaching of the Catholic Church as we strive to develop the talents of every member of our community.**

## Introduction

This policy has been written in accordance with our Mission Statement which aims to provide a stimulating and relevant curriculum so that each individual can reach their full potential and create a safe working environment where there is mutual respect and trust amongst everyone. We acknowledge that Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship, as well as Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), are all underpinned by a theology of relationship and are all encompassed in the title 'Relationships and Sex Education' (RSE).

Our belief in the unique dignity of the human person as made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in our Catholic academy. Our approach to RSE therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and is presented positively and prudently.

### Consultation and Implementation

- Parental consultation by allowing parents to view programme content and resources staff will be using to facilitate RSE curriculum (Journey in Love and ten:ten Life to the Full).
- Parental questionnaires sent via google survey to allow parental voice and enable potential changes to the policy.
- Review of RSE curriculum content with staff in the Lent Term 2021 and training on ten:ten curriculum content.
- Consultation with school governors led by J Leech Implementation and Review of Policy
- Implementation of the policy will take place after consultation with the Governors in the Lent term 2021.
- This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Head teacher, RSE Coordinator, the Governing Body and Staff. The next review date is Autumn 2022.

### Dissemination

- The draft policy will be given to all members of the Governing Body, and all teaching and non-teaching members of staff.
- Copies of the document will be available to all parents through the school's prospectus and a copy is available in the school office.

- Details of the content of the RSHE curriculum will also be published on the school's web site.

## **What is RSHE?**

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”

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 who care for me, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe.

- a) Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers Page 4 2 Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, headteachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers Page 19

## **Statutory Requirements**

We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSHE which are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science. 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 academy. Our approach to RSHE 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. RSHE, 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)

RSHE 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 RSHE will be in accordance with the Church's moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging



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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.

### **RSHE at St Mary's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy**

The Governing Body of St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy, believes that Relationship and Sex Education (RSHE) is an essential part of a holistic education since its focus is the individual, uniquely created by God in His own image. Through RSHE, children come to understand more about themselves, others and the beauty of Creation.

In St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy, our Mission Statement commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural, emotional) and we believe that RSHE is an integral part of this education. Furthermore, our school aims state that 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. It is in this context that we commit ourselves: In partnership with parents, to provide children and young people 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.

### **Objectives**

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.

#### 1. 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;
- the facts about human reproduction, how love is expressed sexually and how sexual love plays an essential and sacred role in procreation;

### **Implementation**

RSHE will be taught through the Ten:Ten programme 'Life to the full' supplemented by 'Journey in Love'. These programmes have been approved by our diocese. Furthermore, Ten :Ten have entered into a partnership with the Catholic Education Service and the Department for Education to provide training for teachers in Catholic schools on the subject of the new statutory curriculum.

### **Inclusion and Differentiated Learning**

We will ensure the teaching of the programme of 'Life to the full' is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils' different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances; for example, their own sexual orientation, faith or culture and is taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help.

### **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.



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## **Programme**

Three modules are based on the model Catholic RSE curriculum:

Created and loved by God  
Created to love others  
Created to live in community

The programme consists of units of work including music, prayer and work booklets. Each Unit has an end of unit assessment activity from which teacher judgements can be made as to the level of attainment.

This RSHE policy is to be delivered as part of the PSHE framework. It includes guidelines about pupil safety and is compatible with the school's other policy documents (for example, Bullying Policy, Safeguarding Policy etc) Life to the full programme will be supplemented by teachers to meet the non - statutory requirements of PSHE.

## **Parents and Carers**

We recognise that parents (and other carers who stand in their place) are the primary educators of their children. As a Catholic school, we provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children. Therefore, the school will support parents and carers by providing material to be shared with their children at home and workshops to help parents/carers to find out more. Parents/carers will be informed by letter when the more sensitive aspects of RSHE will be covered in order that they can be prepared to talk and answer questions about their children's learning.

## **The Right to Withdraw**

Parents continue to have the right to withdraw their children from Sex Education except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to notify the school by contacting the Head teacher. The

school will provide support by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning.

### **Responsibilities Governors – J O’Shaughnessy**

- draw up the RSE policy, in consultation with parents and teachers;
- ensure that the policy is available to parents;
- ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies, e.g., SEN, the ethos of the school and our Christian beliefs;
- ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children;
- establish a link governor to share in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, including resources used;
- ensure that the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum science topics and the setting of RSE within PSHE.

### **Headteacher – J Leech**

- The Head teacher takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, the Diocesan Schools’ Service and the Local Education Authority, also appropriate agencies.

### **PSHE/RSE Co-Ordinator – A McIntyre**

- The co-ordinator with the head teacher 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 and the provision of in-service training.

### **All Staff**

- RSE is a whole school issue. All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be 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 have been included in the development of this policy and all staff should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them.

### **Controversial Issues Controversial or Sensitive Issues**

- There will always be sensitive or controversial issues in the field of RSE. These may be matter of maturity, of personal involvement or experience of children, of disagreement with the official teaching of the Church, of illegal activity or other doubtful, dubious or harmful activity. The Governors believe that children are best educated, protected from harm and exploitation by discussing such issues openly within the context of the RSHE programme.
- The use of ground rules, negotiated between teachers and pupils, will help to create a supportive climate for discussion. Some questions may raise issues which it would not be appropriate for teachers to answer during ordinary class time.



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## **Supporting Children or Young People at Risk**

Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is a victim of or is at risk of abuse they are required to follow the school's safeguarding policy and immediately inform the designated senior member of staff responsible. Pupils will be encouraged to talk to their parents/carers about the issues which are discussed in the programme. Teachers will always help pupils facing personal difficulties, in line with the school's pastoral care policy. Teachers should explain to pupils that they cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, in matters which are illegal or abusive for instance. Teachers will explain that in such circumstances they would have to inform others, e.g., parents, head teacher, but that the pupils would always be informed first that such action was going to be taken. All governors, all teachers, all support staff, all parents and all pupils must be made aware of this policy, particularly as it relates to issues of advice and confidentiality.

## **Monitoring of RSE Monitoring and Review**

The RSHE Co-ordinator will monitor the provision of the various dimensions of the programme by examining plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils work at regular intervals. The programme will be evaluated biannually by means of questionnaires and assessment given to pupils, and / or by discussion with pupils, staff and parents. The results of the evaluation should be reported to these groups of interested parties and their suggestions sought for improvements. Governors will consider all such evaluations and suggestions before amending the policy. Governors remain ultimately responsible for the policy. This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body and amended if necessary before this time.