



St Edmund's Catholic School

A learning community

A faith community

A vibrant forward looking community

Sex & Relationships Policy

Ratified by FGB 25th May 2016

Next review: May 2017

RATIONALE

Church Teaching

This programme will convey the unity and coherence of Church teaching on human sexuality and the dignity of life. Church teaching will be communicated as a “consistent ethic of life”, not a series of arbitrary or random prohibitions since this miscommunicates the positive value placed by the Church on the value and beauty of human sexuality evidenced in the creation of Man and Woman, as representative of God’s own image (Gen 1:26).

The approach is to encourage young people to enter into a deeper relationship with God, themselves and others and is founded on a realisation that:

- every human life has an intrinsic and absolute value through being created by God and in the image 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 underline all human relationships.

Statutory Requirements

The law requires that maintained secondary schools teach sex education, human growth and reproduction, including education about HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, as set out in the National Curriculum. It also requires that the Governing Body and Headteacher ensure that any sex and relationship education is provided in a way that encourages students to consider the value of family life.

The Governing Body must keep a written, up-to-date annual record of their decisions and have a statement setting out their policy. Copies of this policy must be available to all parents. Learning outcomes must conform to those of Sex and Relationship Education (OFSTED) from the draft guidance issued by the QCA for PSHE at KS4 (January 2005).

(Sources: Education Acts: 1986, 1993 and 1996, DfES Sex and Relationships Education (2000) Healthy Schools Standards).

See also the Briefing Paper issued by DfE on 19th April 2016 entitled Sex and Relationships in Schools (England).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To help students come to an understanding of themselves and others as fully human
- To enable young people to learn what the Church teaches and build bonds of trust and communication with each other
- To augment students’ understanding of their physical and emotional development
- To promote ways in which young people can examine contemporary stereotypes of masculine and feminine behaviour and assume responsibility for their actions

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- To help students develop the confidence and skills to discern messages in the media and the positive and negative effects of peer pressure, enabling them to make decisions about how to act in accordance with their own beliefs and values.

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CURRICULAR PLANNING

Syllabus

The responsibility for the writing and planning of the sex education syllabus lies with the Subject Leader of Religious Studies' department who will continually update the syllabus.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To provide a Catholic understanding of the human person and an appreciation that authentic human love is more than sexual expression, for the human person is made in the image and likeness of God and this dignity is inalienable.

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES

Teaching Styles

- To deliver all areas of the programme in an ambience of openness, honesty, trust and confidentiality.
- To employ an interactive style where students can respectfully explore all questions relating to their personal, sexual and social development
- To respect the experiences of the individual in relation to family and personal history
- To model effective verbal and non-verbal communication skills

Learning Styles

- To be sensitive to the varying experiences of the individual student and to provide appropriate delivery of content across all learning styles.
- To challenge the student through various levels of maturity so they can benefit from sharing learning in a peer group setting.

INCLUSION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Materials will be employed that will ensure individual development and knowledge across all levels; SEN, Gifted & Talented, gender, ethnicity and EAL.

KEY SKILLS

Literacy

- To provide KEY VOCABULARY for all topics covered and help the students to express concepts employing more appropriate language and expression.

Numeracy

- To provide updated statistics relating to issues covered in the programme

ICT

- To set specific tasks where students present research using ICT.

ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORTING

- AFL – delivered in accordance with strategies currently employed in the RS department

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- Assessment of learning – delivered via written tasks and shared plenaries throughout the programme
- Record keeping – as part of the RS records
- Reporting to parents – as part of the current RS reporting system (open to development).

HOMEWORK AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Bringing in approved groups; dramatic, voluntary support groups, etc to aid the clear communication of issues explored

To be read in conjunction with Archdiocese of Southwark – Diocesan Policy for Education in Human Love – Guidance on Sex relationship education in Catholic Schools.

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CONSULTATION

The sex education responsibility lies with the Subject Leader of Religious Studies' department who will continually update personal knowledge of development in the Church's teaching regarding all areas of this issue and adjust the curriculum content in accordance with any such developments.

- To review any and all approaches by external advice providers – personal or in printed form.

CURRICULUM DELIVERY

Presently this is delivered by the Religious Studies department with essential support from the Biology department.

PARENTAL RIGHTS

It is the right of the parent(s) to withdraw their child/children from all or part of the programme where alternative delivery of the statutory requirements with regard to this topic can be provided by the school or the parent(s) themselves.

PARTNERSHIPS

The philosophy and beliefs which underlie this programme of sex education are delivered in partnership with the local and national CES, the feeder parishes and the Catholic community in general.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out with reference to the school's standards and moderation practices.

Evaluation will include sources external to the school who deliver, in any part, areas covered by the content of the SRE programme described in this document, i.e. County Sex Education Adviser, school nurse, school councillor.

Data collection and analysis to cover:

- Students' attitudes to learning, behaviour and personal development
- The quality of provision:
 - Planning
 - Assessment
 - Teaching
 - Marking

In accordance with the standard practices of the school.

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