

St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School

Relationship and Sex Education Policy

September 2018

*‘Serving with Love, Striving for Excellence’*

**Rationale:**

*‘I have come that you might have life and have it to the full’*

*(John, 10.10)*

We acknowledge that Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) as well as Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), are all underpinned by a theology of relationships, and are all encompassed in the title ‘Relationships and Sex Education’ (RSE).

Our belief in the unique dignity of the human person are made in the image and likeness of God, underpins the approach to all education in our school. Our approach to relationship and sex education therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church’s teaching of the human person and is presented positively and prudently.

Stemming from this vision of what it means to be human, we seek to educate the whole child: spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally, psychologically and physically towards our understanding of Christian maturity.

Following guidance from our own Bishop and Diocese, the conference of Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE, all Relationship and Sex Education in our school will be firmly embedded in the Religious Education framework as it is concerned primarily with nurturing the human wholeness of our pupils.

All Relationship and Sex Education will be in accordance with the Church’s moral teaching it will emphasise the importance of the Sacrament of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from, and support will be provided to help pupils deal with different sets of values.

**Aims of Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)**

* To encourage pupils’ growth in self-respect, acknowledging we are all created in the image and likeness of God
* To help pupils develop an understanding that love is the central basis of relationships
* To help pupils to understand the nature of relationships and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people
* To develop pupils’ confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
* To help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships
* To offer sex education in the wider context of relationships
* To ensure that pupils protect themselves and ask for help and support when needed
* To ensure that pupils are fully prepared for puberty
* To help pupils to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle
* To prepare pupils to play an active role as citizen and to understand the Catholic vision of what it means to be citizens of the Kingdom/reign of God

**Delivery of Relationships and Sex Education**

Relationships and Sex Education is taught through our life style in school and through the subjects of Religious Education, Science, and PSHCE, and by way of a cross-curricular, integrated approach as a fundamental part of the Catholic life of the school.

All elements of PSHE and Citizenship, whilst non-statutory at Key Stage 1 and 2, are covered. Significant aspects of Relationships and Sex Education remain part of the National Curriculum for Science. These will be taught to all pupils. *(Parents unable to withdraw pupils from such lessons).*

**Key Stage 1 (5-7)**

* That humans move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce
* To name the main external parts of the body
* That humans grow from babies into children and then into adults, and that adults can produce babies
* To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and other pupils

**Key Stage 2 (7-11)**

* That the life processes common to humans and all animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction
* The main stages of the human life cycle

We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to Relationships and Sex Education as the school, of its very nature operates through positive human relationships. We recognise, value and greatly appreciate the contribution made by all members of staff in deepening the quality of our Christian community.

Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in Relationships and Sex Education. Careful consideration will be given to the wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in their care.

While we operate a whole school approach to Relationship and Sex Education through our RSE Programme, pupils in Year 5 will learn about the emotional and physical changes of puberty.For this particular part of the curriculum, children will be taught together. A similar approach will operate in Year 6, when pupils will cover the life cycle and sexual intercourse.

**Assessment Recording and Reporting:**

A record is kept in teachers planning of the delivery of Relationships and Sex Education. The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the coordinator in accordance with the schools monitoring and evaluation policy. Pupils are given the opportunity for self-evaluation at an appropriate level for each year group. Reporting is made in individual pupil’s reports under ‘General Development’.

**Outside Agencies:**

The expertise of outside agencies may be used appropriately to support but not at the expense of the school’s delivery. The school is particularly thankful of the help available from the diocesan agencies and charities such as Nugent Care.

**Curriculum Continuity:**

The school has an ongoing dialogue with the PSHCE coordinator of St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School; Relationships and Sex, RE, Collective Worship, Spiritual, Moral and PSHCE policies complement each other as appropriate.

**Safeguarding Procedures:**

The school has procedures in place to deal with any sensitive issues or children thought to be vulnerable. Staff will pass on any concerns of this nature to the designated child protection officer in school.

**The Governing Body:**

The Governing body and Foundation Governors in particular recognise their responsibility to ensure the Relationships and Sex Education programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church’s teaching as outlined in “Learning to Love” the Bishops’ of England and Wales document 2016.

**The Role of Parents:**

The Church has always recognised that it is the privilege and the responsibility of parents to educate and inform their children in all matters pertaining to personal growth and development particularly in the sensitive area of their moral education and sexual development. The Church also recognises that many parents require help and support in this task from both schools and parishes.

The Governing body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishops’ Conference and will always ensure that:

* Parents are supported in their task
* Parents are consulted and kept informed of the Relationships and Sex Education Programme, its contents, evaluation and review and any subsequent developments

**Right of Withdrawal:**

It is our hope that parents would wish their children to be involved in the schools positive and prudent programme of Relationship and Sex Education, following annual consultation regarding the school’s approach. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from such lessons (not included in National Curriculum Science) after discussion with the Head Teacher.

**Monitoring and Review:**

This policy will be monitored annually by the Relationships and Sex Education coordinator and will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.

This policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School. It will be reviewed by the Governors and Head teacher in conjunction with all the staff annually from the date below.

Signed………………………………………………………………. (Chair of Governors)

Date…………………………………………