



St Peter & St Paul
Catholic Voluntary Academy
Pro Petro Paulo Patria

Policy Document
Status: Approved
Confidentiality level: Public

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Policy Ref No. PRSE 01

'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'

John 10:10

The Ethos of St Peter and St Paul

"Our school is a community where Jesus Christ is our role model and his message the guiding principle behind all we do.

Every member of our community is responsible for creating an environment that is caring, fair and respectful of each individual.

We develop our potential, celebrate our talents and go forward together in faith."

Christ is the foundation of everything we do and the Gospels provide us with our influence and inspiration. We are therefore committed to promoting:

The uniqueness of the individual

We believe that every person is a unique individual, created in God's image and loved by Him. We are therefore committed to treat every person with equality of esteem and the respect and dignity due to a child of God.

The search for excellence

We are called to seek perfection in all aspects of our lives. We celebrate the enrichment of the total community, which flows from diversity of age, gender, racial and social origins, abilities, culture and religion. We are therefore committed to ensure that all are to be given every opportunity to develop their talents to the full.

The education of the whole person

We offer young people the experience of life in a community founded on Gospel values and working in harmony. Through this and a variety of educational experiences and interactions we aim to prepare young people for a life working with others in communities which maybe diverse socially, culturally and religiously. We recognise that it is also important to help pupils to understand their own ethnic identity and cultural heritage as well as helping them to understand that of others irrespective of whether the school serves or is located in an ethnically diverse community.

The education of all

We have the duty of care for all to ensure that we provide for those who are socially, academically, physically, emotionally or financially disadvantaged.

Moral principles

Our belief in the Gospel message commits us to be in the forefront of the movement for social and racial justice and harmony. We believe this is fundamental to the common good. We aim to prepare our young people to serve as witnesses to these moral and spiritual values in the wider world.

Consequently, we still strive to ensure that:

Any person recruited to the service of the school, whether as a member of staff or as a volunteer, is made fully aware of our aims and objectives and required to support them;

Children who are admitted to the school and their families are fully aware of our aims and objectives and undertake to support them;

All of our structures and policies are evaluated and kept under constant review in order to see that no individual is subject in any way to unlawful discrimination, whether intentional or unintentional, and to ensure that all are enabled to reach their full potential.

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Rationale

As a Catholic academy we understand that all our pupils are of intrinsic and absolute value as they are created by God in his own and likeness. With this at the centre of all our teaching, and in particular our Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), we aim to make our teaching holistic and fitting to the needs of the pupils.

Church Teaching

The RSE programme at St Peter and St Paul Catholic Voluntary Academy is underpinned by the following Church teachings:

- The dignity and worth of each person made in the image of God.
- The importance of individuals coming together in mutual support and regard, to live and work for the good of humankind and the glory of God.

Sex Education Policy Statement:

" ... Children and young people should be helped to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual qualities.... they should receive a positive and prudent education in matters of sex ... and young people have the right to be stimulated to make sound moral judgments based on a well-informed conscience and to put them into practice with a sense of personal commitment ..." (Second Vatican Council, *Gravissimum Educationis*, 1965, GE3)

Statutory Requirements

Statutory requirements for sex education are set out in the DfE's guidance booklet entitled 'Sex and Relationships Education' (2000). 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.

The booklet can be downloaded from <https://www.gov.uk>

Aims

RSE at St Peter and St Paul Catholic Voluntary Academy aims to meet these requirements while also encouraging pupils to consider the views of the Roman Catholic Church and the value of the human person.

The key aim of the programme is to provide teaching that is founded on Roman 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 absolute.

The academy aims to provide a RSE programme which will:

- Have in place a well structured programme, in keeping with the teachings of the Catholic Church which will enable each pupil to grow and develop into a 'fully human, fully alive' person as a unique individual made in God's image
- Correct misinformation and enable pupils to recognise the importance of the choices they make and that they are responsible for the decisions they take.
- Encourage pupils to be aware of their attitudes and values and to have a sense of responsibility for themselves.

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- Promote students' understanding of their physical, emotional and spiritual development.
- Promote teachers' subject knowledge and confidence
- Promote ways in which young people can examine contemporary stereotypes of masculine and feminine behaviour and assume responsibility for their actions
- Create opportunities for students to consider their knowledge, attitudes and behaviour, in the light of the Gospel values and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, so that they can make informed choices and live out their lives as members of the Catholic family.
- 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
- Ensure that all students regardless of individual differences are able to access sex and relationship education.

Practice

1. A team led by Assistant Headteacher (Student Development), the Leader of Achievement and Learning, plus any other appropriate staff will work collectively under the guidance of the Head Teacher and Governing body to develop the RSE curriculum.
2. RSE will be incorporated and delivered through the Religious Education, Science and Aspire Day curriculum and taught by teachers and others who are informed of their responsibilities of delivering these topics in line with teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.
3. The delivery of RSE will affirm the teaching of the Catholic Church whilst recognising that students need to be aware of different attitudes within their immediate and wider society.
4. The help of outside agencies and speakers, who are in support of the Roman Catholic ethos of the School, will be sought to support the programme and will be invited to complement the School's teaching with their professional perspectives.
5. Provision for external support agencies will be made for pupils with specific learning difficulties. These agencies will be provided with the appropriate church teaching on RSE.
6. There will be a regular review and evaluation of the delivery of RSE which will include student voice.

Present Position

We will provide all of our students with a programme of RSE in accordance with our responsibilities as a Roman Catholic School and statutory requirements, via the academy web site.

The programme will rest upon the precepts of the Roman 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.

St Peter and St Paul Catholic Voluntary Academy is distinguished by the quality of care extended to all within its school community. In order to extend this care beyond the

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academy, pupils will be taught the value of stable family life, of respect for the individual and the dignity of human life.

The objective of RSE at St Peter and St Paul Catholic Voluntary Academy is to help young people to develop the capacity for arriving at moral decisions which are based on sound principles of church teachings.

Working with Parents

St Peter and St Paul Catholic Voluntary Academy works in partnership with parents, recognising that parents have primary responsibility in educating their children in matters of Sex and Relationship education.

The academy's role is to support and assist parents in carrying out this responsibility. Parents will be informed and given the opportunity to view the curriculum programme and to be informed of the aims and objectives of the programme.

“Education for sexual integration is an on-going process. Its aim is to nurture the virtue of chastity, that is, of moral maturity in the area of sexual desire. At a young age, this is partly a matter for formal education, where parents should be partners with schools in the education of their children. However, what happens in the family home is equally, if not more, important. It is extremely difficult for parents, even when combining with schools and Christian youth groups, to help their children to develop the virtue of chastity, but it is a vitally important task. Key to this process of personal growth is the establishment of self-respect and the ability to form relationships of trust. The many who do develop to moral maturity and self-possession owe not a little to their relationships with their parents and the example of their parents' relationship with one another”. (Catholic Bishop's Conference, 2004)

On entry to St Peter and St Paul Catholic Voluntary Academy, parents agree to their child taking part fully in every aspect of the religious life of the school, including Religious Education lessons and liturgies. However, parents have a statutory right to withdraw their child from aspects of the Sex and Relationships Education programme. It is up to any individual who is considering such a withdrawal to reconcile their own conscience in this matter. In the first instance they are advised to discuss the situation with the Headteacher.

Dissemination of the policy

The policy aims and objectives are available to all staff through the internal M: 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 Matters committee and through the website.

Procedures for Policy Monitoring and Evaluation

Each Subject Leader will also be responsible for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning of Relationship and Sex Education within their own remit under the leadership of the Leader of Learning and Achievement. This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher (Student Development), Subject Leader for RE and the Governing Body.

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Relationship & Sex Education Policy - Appendix 1

Roles and Responsibilities of stakeholders

The role of Parents

Parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. St Peter and St Paul Catholic Voluntary Academy seeks to work in close partnership with parents in this field. Parents will be consulted on the content of relationship and sex education programme and apprised of any proposed changes to those programmes. Parents will be encouraged to talk to their children at school and listen to their questions and thoughts.

The key purpose of this policy statement is to reassure parents that the school's RSE programme will complement and support their role as parents. However, parents have the right to withdraw their child from some, or all, RSE lessons, except those that are included in the statutory National Curriculum.

The role of Governors

The Governing Body of St Peter and St Paul Catholic Voluntary Academy is responsible for ensuring that there is a Relationships and Sex Education policy, in consultation with parents and teachers, which is in keeping with Catholic teaching. They will ensure that the policy is available to parents and that parents know of their right to withdraw their children. The Curriculum and Standards Committee and Pupil Matters Committee of the Governing Body are responsible for monitoring and evaluating the programme of Relationships and Sex Education, and for recommending any alterations. This monitoring applies to both the taught curriculum and the wider areas of school life.

The role of Headteacher

The Headteacher will have overall responsibility for the delivery of Relationships and Sex Education in accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church. He will delegate specific responsibilities accordingly.

The role of Teachers

All staff have a responsibility of care to children and young people. As well as fostering academic progress they should contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual wellbeing of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach RSE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school, and all teachers involved in the delivery of RSE at any level should ensure that they are familiar with the teachings of the Catholic Church in relation to relationships and sex. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RSE. Teachers also have a duty to bring to the attention of the nominated person Safeguarding, any child protection issues (see Safeguarding Policy for specific guidance).

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.

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The role of Other Stakeholders

The school will make appropriate use of external agencies such as theatre groups, counselling organisations, health professionals, and local community figures. All staff from external agencies will be asked to adhere to the teaching of the Catholic Church, in line with protocols for visitors to Catholic Schools.

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Relationship & Sex Education Policy Appendix 2

Teaching and Learning

Within relationships and sex education there are many aspects which are sensitive to both students and their teachers. It is therefore important that we create the right environment within school in order to allow opportunities for these activities to take place. If teachers and students are to feel free to discuss sensitive issues then creating, structured and organised opportunities is important, including reference to the school policy on teaching and learning.

Suggested activities and approaches typically include:

- clear ground rules for discussing sensitive issues
- class discussion – whole and group and paired work
- quality Q & A opportunities throughout to ensure progress is made
- size and setting or ability of groups
- gender mix
- specific needs of children e.g. SEN, EAL (narrowing the gap)
- the use of quality digital resources and ICT
- thinking skills activities
- the value of opportunities for speaking and listening
- external groups or speakers
- vetting of resource materials
- drama and role play
- reflection

Groupings within the class may need to be determined by the nature of the task. Within relationship and sex education it is important that students recognise that some issues which affect them also affect others, including the opposite sex. Therefore some preliminary group building activities can enable a positive tone to be set for group work, creating a firm foundation for classroom management. Group work requires students to feel secure in their group: sharing some personal information within the group and setting ground rules for the work are two ways of encouraging a greater level of trust. Participation in group work encourages a respect for differing opinions, enables learning from others and assists in the use and development of appropriate language that can be readily understood by all members of the group. Student participation has to take into account student perception, ability, needs and experiences and should enable all students to take an active role (differentiation, identified need, group membership/dynamic).

When using visitors with teaching groups, we have a responsibility to ensure that both the content and practice are in alignment with school policy. It is important that the person arranging the session should have prior knowledge of the speaker/ organisation before a booking is made. The session should be planned in discussion with the Subject Leader of RE or Headteacher. A clear brief should be given to the speaker, with a copy of the academy's Mission Statement and appropriate policies, along with information about the specific group and curriculum context together. Follow up and evaluation of the input with students should also be undertaken. Appropriate members of staff should be present at the talk/session to monitor the appropriateness of the content and support the visitor by ensuring management of student behaviour, and to ensure continuity in the session/programme. Any leaflets /materials to be given out or used for RSE should be seen by the Headteacher and used only with their permission.