
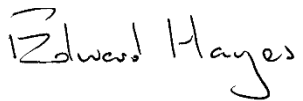


Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust



R.S.E POLICY

Policy Date:	17/05/20	Kate Hayles Head Teacher	
Policy Review Date:	16/05/21	Edward Hayes Chair of Governors	

RSE policy

School Mission Statement. - We believe that God's Spirit is at work in everyone in our community. We will provide an environment of Hope, Joy and Fulfilment, in which the skills to fulfil God's desires for us, as unique individuals, are cultivated. **R.S.E Relating to our Mission Statement.**

- Education in sexuality should be based on and reflect the Missions Statement and be a process, beginning from where pupils are at when starting school.
- To promote and facilitate close co-operation between school, home and parish.
- To help every child reach their maximum potential within a happy Catholic School environment. To learn that we are all unique human beings created in the image of God and to grow in self-knowledge as physical, spiritual, social beings and that sexuality is part of our natural nature as human beings.
- To create a happy stimulating and caring catholic School environment, which heralds the message of Christ and where people of all faiths feel welcome and each child feels confident and secure.
- To ensure the effective implementation of the National Curriculum, without loss of the development of the whole child and with Christ at the centre of school life.
- To develop an understanding, knowledge and appreciation of the moral and social teaching of the Catholic Church and its ministry within society.

Aims:

'...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 relating to sex....and young people have the right to be educated to make sound moral judgements based on a well-informed conscience and to put them into practice with a sense of personal commitment....' (Gravissimum Educationis (para 3) Second vatican Council).

Our overall aim is to support the personal, moral and social development of all pupils, ensuring that they have the ability to accept their own and others' sexuality in positive ways and to enjoy relationships based on mutual respect, dignity and responsibility, free from any abuse.

This must take account of the primary role of parents.

The Primary Role of Parents.

Our approach to partnership with parents clearly accepts the Church's teaching that parents are the 'first and foremost educators of their children'. Our role is to support them in their task.

We have an educational and pastoral support provision for the information of parents capable of dealing with issues as they arise;

'The School cannot separate itself off from the families of the pupils and the wider community of the local neighbourhood. Our Schools serve their needs and work with them in mutual respect and collaboration. We should prepare pupils to live in and cope with the world of the 21st Century and foster a responsible, yet critical attitude to the society in which they live'. (Our Schools & Our Faith updated 2015)

As a School and a Parish of Sacred Heart we co-operate very closely in offering this support.

How parents/ Carers are informed

Parents will be informed by letter that their child is about to start RSE lessons and will receive a link to the programme so that they are prepared for any questions their child may have.

Catholic Teaching on Sexuality.

Sexuality is understood by the Church as part of our 'giftedness'. Sexuality is essential to our personal identity. It is God's gift to us. As we grow in capacity to love, in all the aspects of our lives, we are open and make present the 'Divine' at the heart of the Human Being.

As we help our children to grow and develop, to do justice to their potential, we have the obligation to offer our children and young people, Christ's vision of being human as Good News. We must have Good News to offer them in their understanding of their sexuality as well as every other aspect of their lives.

Sexuality is basic to our human nature, to our personality, one of its modes of being, of communicating with others, of feeling, of expressing and of living human love. It is an integral part of the development of the personality and of the educative process. It is in fact, from sexuality that the human person receives the characteristics which, on the biological, psychological and spiritual level, make that person, and thereby largely condition his or her progress towards maturity and insertion into adult society.

So that we can offer education in sexuality in the spirit of 'Good News' with regard to our becoming more fully human, our education should not be 'problem' or 'crisis' led. It should be **positive**, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.

All the education we offer our children and young people, should service the overall Mission and Aims of the Catholic School, and should be understood and accepted by all who work with our young people, in our schools.

(Adapted from the C.E.S. Guidelines – Education in Sexuality 1995). Updated 2015.

Integrated Education in Sexuality is but part of education in Relationships – hence our more contemporary use of the term ‘Relationships and Sex Education (R.S.E)’. Consequently, here at Sacred Heart School each child will experience a school climate in which the quality of relationships between staff and pupils, between the pupils themselves, is marked by honesty, personal identification, warmth, trust and security.

R.S.E is fully integrated into the curriculum, for of its very nature, it is ‘cross-curricular’ with science, religious education, health education, literature, the Arts, all having a key role to play. Our whole school curriculum conveys values and helps in the moral growth of all pupils.

The Role of Governors. The Governing Body of a Catholic School has the responsibility to ensure that a clear and adequate policy regarding Education in Sexuality, based on the School’s Mission Statement, is in place and implemented in the School.

The Foundation Governors as representatives of the Bishop and the Trustees, have a special pastoral and moral responsibility of ensuring that the provision of Education in Sexuality offered by the School is in keeping with the Teachings of the Catholic Church, with good educational principles and to support the role of parents as primary educators.

It is the wish of the Bishop of this Diocese that the Governors of Catholic Schools draw up a policy specific to their School, its pupils and the culture of the area, in line with this document.

The Governors are expected to work in very close partnership with the members of their School’s academic staff, the school nurse, parent representatives and the priest with pastoral responsibility as the School Chaplain, or with a Lay Chaplain under the supervision of the Parish Priest.

Consultation and communication at all levels between the Governors, School, Home, Diocese and Parish are pre-requisites to good effective policy making, implementation and monitoring.

‘One of the prime tasks of our Schools is to create an atmosphere of welcome and respect, which promotes and make possible the full personal development of all pupils and members of staff. The quality of personal relationships and an open system of communication are crucial.’ (Extract from – Our Schools & Our Faith).

All Relationships and Sex Education will be taught in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Also ,following the guidelines found in Ofsted’s Sex and Relationships Report (HMI 433) and ‘Not yet good enough...’(published May 2013) ,Relationships and Sex Education will be taught in Sacred Heart Academy as part of the P.S.H.E Programme in the format below:

The school will follow the Ten Ten 'Life to the full' programme with children from FS through to year 6. Governors will be able to access the programme with a special link provided by the RSE coordinator.

Assessment/ Feedback;

Assessment throughout the programme will be recorded in the teacher's individual Assessment for Learning book.