

St Hugh's Catholic Primary School

A Journey in Love

Year 1: We meet God's love in our family

Parent Information



Foreword: Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, ("The Joy of Love"), reminds us that the family is where we first learn to relate to others, to listen and share, to be patient, to help one another, learn closeness, care and respect for others, (n.276). He underlines the importance and vital role Catholic Schools play in assisting and helping pupils grow into mature adults, (n.279). He accentuates that sex education should provide information while keeping in mind that children have not yet attained maturity. This information has to come at a proper time and in a way suited to their age (n.281).

It is hoped that love starts to enter our life from the moment of birth when we are held tenderly in the arms of our mother and developed throughout our first intimate relationship of childhood with our parents, family members, friends and teachers. At puberty the secondary sexual characteristics arise. Now we begin to seek someone from outside our family and, armed with our first relationship, we explore our second intimate relationship of love, usually ending in marriage.

The whole purpose of Catholic education at home and in the primary school is to connect every aspect of growth: physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual, with love. The ultimate goal is to enable children to grow into adults who fully understand their own self-worth and love themselves (i.e. accept themselves positively) and, in turn, be able to love their neighbour (i.e. make themselves fully available to others).

Parents and teachers are privileged to assist children every moment of their lives to further this link of love with their humanity and thus with God. This revised edition of *Journey in Love* is a brilliant reconciliation between the human and divine aspects of love. It offers a vision that is none other than the Kingdom of God, summed up by Jesus in the double commandments of loving God and our neighbour as ourselves.

Baroness Sheila Hollins

YEAR 1

Children will know and understand that God loves us in a variety of ways:

Skills: listening / observing / relating / speaking / respecting / reflecting / praying / understanding/supporting/deciding

Social and Emotional: Children will learn to recognise the signs that they are loved in their family.

Physical: Children will be taught to recognise how they are cared for and kept safe.

Spiritual: Children will celebrate the way God loves and cares for them

PARENTS

Things you could do at home:

- Talk to your child about people who care for them in their family.
- Look at photographs of your child taken over the years and note the changes in their growth and development.
- Reflect on the developmental milestones in your child's life such as first steps, first words or when your child started school.
- Discuss different times in your family's history sharing both happy memories and those of sadder times. Talk about how our feelings differ in happy and sadder times.
- If your child is baptised share pictures and memories of the day.

Loving Father,
Thank you for each member
of my family and for all my friends.
Thank you for making each of us special
and uniquely loved by you.
Amen.