

## A Journey in Love

### Year 6: The wonder of God's love in creating new life

#### 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 6

Children will develop a secure understanding of what stable; caring relationships are and the different kinds there may be. Focusing on Catholic teaching, children will also know and understand about the conception of a child within marriage.

**Skills:** categorising, observing, classifying, listening, questioning, speaking, relating, respecting, reflecting, thinking, identifying, accepting, empathising, understanding, communicating, presenting, evaluating, researching.

**Social and Emotional:** Children will develop a secure understanding that stable and caring relationships, which may be of different types, are the heart of happy families.

**Physical:** Children will know and understand how human life is conceived.

**Spiritual:** Children will show an understanding of how being made in the image and likeness of God informs decisions and actions when building relationships with others, including life-long relationships.

#### Journey of Life

For each of us, life is like a journey. Birth is the beginning of this journey,  
And death is not the end; but the destination.  
It is a journey that takes us from youth to age,  
From innocence to awareness, From ignorance to knowledge, From foolishness to wisdom,  
From weakness to strength and often back again, From offence to forgiveness,  
From pain to compassion, From fear to faith,  
From defeat to victory and From victory to defeat, Until, looking backwards or ahead,  
We see that victory does not lie at some high point along the way, but in having made the journey,  
Stage by stage.

Adapted from an old Hebrew prayer.

#### Parents

Help your child compile a list of the signs of love expressed in those around us such as parents, grandparents, siblings etc. Signs of love may be actions or words that are unique to the person expressing their love for them.

Discuss the different degrees of friendship that exist in your child's life e.g. school friends, close friends, best friends, lifelong friends. As your child prepares to move on to secondary school discuss how some friends will continue to be important in their lives but they will meet a wider circle of new people with whom they may meet and make new friendships.

Be prepared to discuss any questions your child may raise with regard to how their bodies are changing and the reproductive cycle.

#### Prayer

We praise and thank you, Lord For the gifts of life and love.  
Help us to use these wisely As we continue to journey in love.

Amen.