

# St. Hugh's Catholic Primary School

## Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy

### **Mission Statement**

St Hugh's School provides a welcoming, safe and secure environment for all. Our school aims to be a community which reflects real gospel values of love and forgiveness. A community in which each individual, child or adult, can work in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding; so as to broaden their appreciation of the world, its cultures and its people.

### **Every day ..... Growing in God's Love**

Our belief in the unique dignity of the human person as 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.

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 is 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 is in accordance with the Church's moral teaching. It acknowledges that all children have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from and support is provided to help children deal with different sets of values.

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

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

### **Delivery of RSE**

RSE is taught in a variety of ways through discrete RSE lessons, PSHE, Religious Education, science, PE and by way of a cross-curricular, integrated approach.

All elements of PSHE, 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 are taught to all children.

We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to RSE. We recognise and greatly appreciate the contribution made by all members of staff in deepening the quality of our Christian community.

Teachers use their professional judgement when addressing issues in RSE. Careful consideration is given to the wide and varied experiences and backgrounds of the children in their care.

Whilst we operate a whole school approach to Relationship and Sex Education through our RSE Programme, children in Year 6 learn about the emotional and the physical changes of puberty.

### **Resources**

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the key people for teaching children about relationships and sex. Our role in school is simply to complement this by nurturing their children's human wholeness. We use the following curriculum resource to support this:

'A Journey in Love', a resource for teachers focusing on physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.

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### **Assessment Recording and Reporting**

The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated by the subject leader in accordance with the school's monitoring and evaluation policy. Children are given the opportunity for self-evaluation at an appropriate level for each year group. Reporting is made in individual children's reports.

### **Curriculum Continuity**

Our RSE teaching is complemented by several other curriculum subjects and policies in schools. It has significant links with science, RE and PE. It contributes to the policies of Moral Development, Spiritual Development, PSHE, Equalities and Behaviour.

### **Safeguarding Procedures**

We have procedures to deal with any sensitive issues or to support children thought to be vulnerable. Staff pass on any concerns of this nature to the designated safeguarding lead in school.

### **The Governing Body**

The Governing Body recognises its responsibility to ensure the RSE programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church's teaching.

### **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 relating 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 RSE Programme and its contents.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

It is our hope that parents would wish their children to be involved in the school's positive programme of Relationship and Sex Education. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from such lessons (not included in National Curriculum Science) after discussion with the headteacher.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be monitored annually by the RSE subject leader and will be reviewed annually by the Governing Body. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.