

Family Life and Sex Education Policy

Mission Statement

“At St Chad’s we grow in the light of Christ, to share his love and reflect the gospel values”

1. Rationale

As a Catholic School we recognise the responsibility to provide our children with accurate information about health related matters, whilst enabling their development as happy, autonomous, self-reliant, self-governing, self-directing young people.

We will provide a curriculum in sex and relationship education that is authentic to the Catholic Church’s teaching and acknowledges each pupil’s stage of physical and sexual development.

2. Aims

- To encompass all teaching for sexuality and relationships within the moral framework and guidelines of the Catholic Church.
- To offer all pupils a planned programme of education about human development, relationships, sexuality and family life, which is developmental and appropriate to the age and maturity of the child.
- To inform parents and Governors of the content and progression of the programme delivered in school.

3. Objectives:

- The sex and relationships education in Saint Chad’s School contributes to the requirement of the Education Reform Act of 1988, in that the school curriculum should be one which “promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school,” and “prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.”
- In accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church and the Learning and Skills Act 2000, sex and relationship education at Saint Chad’s School will

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ensure that: “young people learn about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children.”

- Sensitive to the community which Saint Chad's School serves and in line with the Learning and Skills Act 2000, we will ensure that: “young people are protected from teaching and materials that are inappropriate having regard to the age, religious and cultural background of the pupils concerned.”
- We acknowledge the right of parents to withdraw their children from any aspects of the teaching programme except those covered by the Diocesan RE and National Curriculum Science orders.

4. Equal Opportunities:

We are committed to equality of opportunity for all pupils, irrespective of ability, ethnicity, gender or achievement. Sex and relationship education will be accessible to all children.

5. Sex and Relationships Programme and Organisation:

Parents and families provide children with their first emotional experiences. Parents have the first responsibility for educating their children both in Faith and in their social interactions with others. Teachers will work in partnership with parents in providing accurate information in sexual and health education and support as their child progresses through the school. Emphasis will be on the uniqueness of each individual and God's gift of life. Teachers will be sensitive in their awareness of children's different rates of growth, both emotionally and physically.

5.1 Foundation/Key Stage 1:

Pupils will consider the wonder of being made in the image and likeness of God, the importance of valuing themselves and others, understanding growth and knowing themselves as male and female, self-esteem, promoting good behaviour, caring for one another, promoting good personal hygiene. These principles will permeate all aspects of the curriculum but more specifically will be addressed through elements of the RE and Science Curriculum.

5.2 Key Stage 2

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- *Years 3 and 4*

In years 3 and 4, pupils will build upon their understanding of being made in the image and likeness of God, self-esteem, relationships, social pressures and media pressures through group discussion and Circle time. Human, sexual and spiritual growth and development will primarily be addressed through the RE and Science curriculum.

- *Years 5 and 6*

Children in years 5 and 6 will follow the Diocesan 'All that I Am' programme of sex and relationships education.

The programme consists of a series of videos, which will be introduced within a cohesive programme planned and delivered by the class teacher. Parents and Governors will be given an opportunity to view the materials to be included in the programme and their comments and views will be valued.

Discussion and Circle Time are important elements of this programme. Factual information sought, will be answered accurately, using correct terminology.

- Boys and girls will be taught in the same sex groups.
- Teachers will handle with sensitivity any explicit or difficult questions. They need not be answered directly and can be answered individually later or referred to the parents/carers.
- All teaching in relation to sexuality, personal responsibility and the dignity of the individual, will be encompassed within the moral framework, spirituality and teaching of the Catholic Church.

6. Confidentiality:

- A child's confidence will be respected, unless the child is considered "at risk".
- Where confidentiality has to be breached, reasons should be given.
- The Head Teacher is the designated person in cases of concern over child sexual abuse and all other child protection issues.

7. References to other Policies:

- RE policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Science Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- PSHE and Citizenship Policy
- Pastoral Care Policy

Signed:

Date: March 2014

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