

## ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Education in personal Relationships Policy

#### RATIONALE

"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 stimulated to make sound and moral judgements based on a well informed conscience and to put them into practice with a sense of personal commitment.."

#### UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

- Sexuality is a gift from God.
- we are made to love and be loved.
- what we say with our bodies should reflect what we mean in our hearts and minds.
- mature Christian sexuality involves openness and commitment to others.
- genuine love is creative.

#### BEST PRACTICE

- Focuses on 'Good News'.
- has whole school approach.
- is part of a developmental programme.
- has whole person approach.
- recognizes and develops partnerships with parent/family.
- takes into account and evaluates current attitudes.

The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school.

"The inclusion of positive, person-centred education is at the heart of Catholic Christian education. This education is about the growth, development and journey of the whole human person towards becoming 'fully human, fully alive' as a unique creation made in God's image".  
(*'Education in Sexuality' CES*).

Education in sexuality is of paramount importance in our Catholic schools today. More than ever do the young people in our care need help and guidance in their struggle to live out their lives as members of the Christian family.

## OUR OVERALL AIM

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 to enjoy relationships based on mutual respect, dignity and responsibility free from any abuse.

## OBJECTIVES

To develop an awareness that all people are of equal importance to God.

To engender growth in self respect and self worth, recognising that each of us is created in the image of God.

To explore the meaning and value of life, and engender an appreciation of the values of family life.

To encourage pupils to be aware of their attitudes and values and have a sense of responsibility for themselves.

To develop an understanding of the beliefs, values and cultures of others in order to be sensitive to the needs of our neighbours and love them as Christ asked.

## Scheme of Work used to teach Education in Personal Relationships (EPR)

In St Joseph's we follow the EPR scheme "**In the Beginning**"

This scheme was selected as it puts sex education into the right context..."within a religious setting and as part of a life education of which the development of personal relationships was an integral part. We wanted a programme which recognised that EPR was a shared responsibility between home and school, between parent and teacher."

Set within a strong Christian framework the programme is made up of 8 pupil work books held together by a common thread:

**The God we love reveals himself to us through the world He has created for us**

The scheme comprises of 8 pupil workbooks with a corresponding parents' advice booklet.

Key stage 1:

Booklet 1 "In the Beginning" (Reception and Year 1)

Booklet 2 "God Made Me" (Year 2)

Key Stage 2:

Booklet 3 "God the Master Designer" (Year 3)

Booklet 4 "God the Caring Protector" (Year 4)

Booklet 5 "God the Great provider" (Year 5)

Booklet 6 "God the friend and Neighbour" (Year 5)

Booklet 7 "God the Image maker part 1" (Year 6)

Booklet 8 "God the Image maker part 2" (Year 6)

Children are taught in school but parent involvement is encouraged and flexibility allows for the booklets to be completed at home if the parents so wish. There is freedom for the pace of learning to be developed to match the learning needs of the child.

Parents have opportunity to come into school to find out more about the scheme. The scheme is non- judgemental and recognises that parents' views on aspects of SRE can differ widely and the strength of the scheme lies in how it encourages parents to be involved in the education progress.

TEACHING

The staff at St Joseph's School will:

- Support pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development.
- Inform parents about the content of what will be taught in our Education in Personal Relationships Programme

In Year 5 and 6 the School nurse and teaching staff speak to the children about how their bodies are changing and parents are informed as to the

content of what is said in order for them to decide if they would like their child to partake.

### ROLE and RESPONSIBILITIES

- *Governors*

In accordance with the Education Act of 1993 the governing body will keep up to date the school's policy for EPR, in consultation with parents and will make copies of the policy available to them. They will make known to parents their right to withdraw their children from all part of SRE provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum.

- *Teachers*

All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach EPR in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school.

- *Parents*

We recognize that parents are the primary educators of their children and the school will seek their support and to support them in this task. They will ensure that parents are kept informed of what is happening in EPR.

### RESOURCES

- "In the Beginning," a Diocesan approved scheme agreed by governors and used in every class in the school.
- Outside support from the school nurse

This policy will be reviewed regularly.