



St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

This policy has been sent to parents and Approved by Governing Body March 2015
To be reviewed March 2016

EDUCATION IN HUMAN LOVE POLICY

Growing Together

God is the heart of our school
Respect ourselves, each other and the environment
Open our hearts and minds
Worship and wonder
Inspire each other
Nurture the best a person can be
Grow and learn together

General Introduction

In accordance with Diocesan guidelines, we consider that sex education as such should not be a subject in itself in the primary school curriculum. The focus should be on living and caring; that all education must reflect the need to consider the whole person and their knowledge, moral development and emotional maturity and set in the context of the sanctity of marriage and family life.

The Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education produced the document "Educational Guidance in Human Love", the heart of which lies in the balance it sets out between the primary duty of parents to educate their children in matters of human love, and the auxiliary but essential duty of the school to co-operate, complement and provide what is best done in the school context.

The Role of Parents

The Church has always recognised that it is the privilege of parents and the responsibility of the family to inform and educate their children in all matters pertaining to human growth and development, particularly in the field of the sensitive area of sexual development. We as a school support parents in this responsibility through our Personal Social and Health Education curriculum. We discuss physical changes and development in a sensitive and supportive manner; sensitive to the maturity and understanding of the children.

The Role of the School

Our programme of PSHE which is firmly linked to our RE, incorporates sex education, based on sound Christian principles and is concerned with the whole person, while realistically acknowledging the social climate in which we live. Our children's values and attitudes are today influenced by the media and we recognize that the media is

powerful vehicle for the transmission of values so it is important that we as a Catholic school address the children's awareness of what they see, hear and read. We aim always to ensure that the information our children are given is received in the context of the Christian community and with Christian values, based on sound moral principles. We hope to help allay fears and anxieties and correct myths and misinformation that our children may have acquired and to work in partnership with the parents for the benefit of all.

Our Catholic Faith

The new Catechism of the Catholic Church recognises the progress of human growth towards maturity and the gradual formation of moral conscience, which it sees as "a life long task" illuminated by God's Word and "helped by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, aided by the witness and advice of others and guided by the Church's authoritative teaching".

Aims

- To lead the children to know God's plan for our physical growth, and true maturing.
- To have a programme of sex education which is founded on Scripture and the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- To help the children to understand themselves, to have a positive self-image and to have good feelings and attitudes towards living and loving.
- To promote sound personal relationships.
- To give the children correct information.
- To prepare children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Objectives

- To help the children to value family life.
- To encourage the children to have a sense of their own self-worth and that of others, recognising that each of us is created in the image of God.
- To help the children to value their own gender, while respecting the opposite sex, and understanding that the two sexes complement each other in their similarities and differences.
- To help the children to understand what is right or wrong, to be aware of when to say yes or no, and to be able to make right choices.
- To enable the children to have some understanding of themselves, their own bodies, their emotional development, as they grow and change.
- To encourage the children to be aware of their attitudes and values and have a sense of responsibility for themselves.
- To help the children to resist peer, social and media pressures where necessary.

Organisation

Our delivery in both key stages is through planned aspects of Religious Education, PSHE and Science curricula. To meet the needs of our children, sex education cannot be confined to one area of the curriculum. All staff need to provide an open, honest and understanding environment so that everyone can feel comfortable to be able to express their feelings and concerns. All education, which is concerned with how human beings treat one another as male and female, is sex education. Any activity that is concerned with the place of women and men, boys and girls in society is also a form of sex education because explicitly or implicitly it will involve some vision of the relationship between the sexes. Appropriate resources are available for use in school. Primary children have confidence in and close relationships with their teachers. The teachers should be seen as ordinary human beings talking about an ordinary human matter as ordinarily and humanly as possible, in a Christian context.

The sex education programme will:

- Provide information which is easy to understand and relevant and appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils;
- Include the development of communication and social skills;
- Encourage the exploration and clarification of Christian values and attitudes.

Delivery

- Through discussion, use of books and DVD materials, specifically related to sex education teaching. All materials will be made available for parents for view in advance of them being shared with pupils.

Answering difficult questions

Sometimes an individual child will ask an explicit or difficult question in the classroom. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. This school believes that individual teachers must use their skill and discretion in these situations and refer to the Headteacher if they are concerned.

Evaluation of the Programme

Elements of sex education in the science curriculum will be assessed formally through the Science Assessment.

Working with Parents

The school is committed to working with parents. Under the Education Act 1993 pupils can be withdrawn by their parents from part of sex education that is outside the compulsory elements of sex education contained in the science National Curriculum. Parents wanting to exercise this right are invited to write to the Headteacher.

Use of Visitors

There are various people who can resource and support school based sex education. These people may include parents, religious or health professionals.

Child Protection

The school has two Child Protection Designated Officers and a Policy and Procedure and is available on request.

Confidentiality

As a general rule a child's confidentiality will be maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. If this person believes that a child is at risk or in danger, they must talk to the Headteacher /DCPO before any decision is made. The child concerned will be informed that confidentiality is being breached and the reasons why. The child will be supported by the school throughout the process.

Equal Opportunities

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School is committed to working towards equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life. All resources and methods have been checked against equal opportunities criteria.

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