

Sex and Relationships Policy

Designated Teacher: Deputy Headteacher

Adopted: Date: Jan 16

Review Period: Three Years

Review Date: Date: Jan 19

“Educating for Life”

Our Values



Rationale:

Jesus said: “I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.” (Jn 10:10)

“My dear people, let us love another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God’s love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him...Since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another...God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God and God lives in them.” (1 Jn 4:7; 9; 16)

The mission of St. John Fisher Catholic High School is to provide a process of teaching and learning, which seeks the reality of Christ. His values, ideals and teaching lie at the centre of our relationships and activities. To this end we seek to create a true community of faith and place of learning.

1. Introduction

1.1. The Catholic Church teaches that every human being has been created by God out of love. The whole of our lives, as either male or female, are a gift from God to be lived



according to his loving design for our flourishing and happiness. Integral to this is the gift of human sexuality, something blessed by God as profoundly good.

1.2. Echoing the Book of Genesis, the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts this truth in simple terms: *“God created man in his own image...male and female he created them; he blessed them and said. ‘Be fruitful and multiply.’”* (CCC 2331)

1.3. In drawing up this policy for sex and relationships education, due attention has been given to the process of consultation and an appropriate use of sources of guidance. The teaching of the Roman Catholic Church is presumed as the foundation for this policy, although not every aspect is fully outlined here. The Catechism of the Catholic Church and the directives of the *Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales* are basic points of reference.

1.4. The Church’s teaching on love, sexuality and the dignity of human life encourages young people to appreciate the gift they have been given as male and female created in God’s image. It also seeks to educate them in an authentic understanding of freedom. In the word of Education for Love (*Catholic Education Service, 1998*): *“How we understand and use this gift of freedom is crucial to our moral development, to our becoming fully human.”* (p. 15)

1.5. Education in sexuality and relationships seeks to foster in young people a deeper relationship with God in Christ, with themselves and with others. This is based on the following principles:

- *Every human life has an intrinsic and absolute value through being created by God and in the image of God*
- *This value derives from the simple fact of existing and is not dependent on an individual’s age, abilities or any other characteristic*
- *Self-respect and respect for others must underpin all human relationships.*

(From: Catholic Schools and Sex and Relationships Education, Briefing 2005)



1.6. The significance of education about sex and relationships is further underlined by Guidelines from the Department for Education and Science:

Sex and relationships education is the lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. (DFES Guidelines, ref 0116/2000)

2. Objectives

2.1 Education for Love reminds those involved in informing young people in the areas of sexuality relationships to “[...] ground themselves in an understanding of the moral teaching of the Church, handing on and promoting the authentic and positive Catholic vision of sexual relationships.” (p.26)

2.2 Furthermore, the *Department for Education and Science* states: “The objective of sex and relationship education is to help support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development...and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence and into adulthood.”

2.3 On this basis, we aim to:

- I. Inform and guide students in developing a moral framework in regard to the responsibilities of adulthood which is rooted in the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.
- II. Enable students to understand that love is the basis of all truly meaningful relationships.
- III. Ensure that pupils understand the central value of marriage and family life for the creation of stable and loving relationships within which to nurture children.
- IV. Help students to understand and respect their own sexuality and that of others.
- V. Encourage students to understand and discuss practical aspects of their own body and the processes of reproduction.
- VI. Ensure that students are given the necessary factual knowledge in health, sex and relationships education.
- VII. Promote self-esteem and provide a forum for the understanding of feelings.
- VIII. Promote ways in which young people can assume responsibility for their actions, especially in the formation of moral character and conscience.



3. The Moral Framework of Sex, Relationships and | Health Education

3.1 Our teaching about sex, relationships and health will adhere to the following fundamental principles:

- i. Every human being is created in the image of God
- ii. Every human life is sacred and “[...] *must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception.*” (CCC 2270)

3.2 When sensitive issues are explored, we will ensure that the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church are always clearly explained and promoted.

3.3 We will help students to develop confidence and skills about how to make moral decisions and how to act in accordance with their beliefs and values.

3.4 We will encourage students to respect themselves and others.

3.5 In the area of sexuality, we will enable an understanding of diversity regarding religion, culture and sexual orientation.

4. Content

4.1 Though some issues in sex, relationships and health education may arise in a variety of subjects across the curriculum, our wish to follow the guidance of the Church means that the programme will be delivered primarily through Religious Education.

4.2 The following forms the content of sex and relationships education in PSHCE, Religious Education and Science.

Equal Opportunities
Tolerance and Respect
Assertiveness

Decision-making skills
Communication skills

Physical development and puberty
Emotional changes at puberty
Sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS
Sex and the law (including rape, abortion, prostitution and pornography)

Friendships
Chastity
Marriage
Celibacy



Human pregnancy and birth
Parenting skills
Contraception
Sexual orientation

Further details of the programmes of study are available upon request.

4.3 The delivery and content of the curriculum will be monitored by the Deputy Head (Pupil Welfare).

4.4 Schemes of work will result from liaison between:

- Head of Religious Education
- PSHCE Co-ordinator
- Head of Science

4.5 Those responsible for teaching sex and relationships education will be carefully chosen to ensure appropriate expertise and sensitivity.

5. Use of Outside Speakers

5.1 It is anticipated that professionals from outside agencies may be involved in delivering aspects of the sex education programme.

5.2 Every visitor or professional speaker will be made aware of the school's policy and its Catholic ethos. To this end, great care will be exercised in the choice of external speakers.

6. Monitoring and Evaluating

6.1 The programme will be monitored in a number of ways:

- Feedback from students
- Regular reviews by teachers delivering the programme
- Review by the Governors' Community Sub-committee

6.2 In the light of review and amended statutory requirements, programme revision will take place.

7. Parents' Right to Withdraw their Child from Sex Education Lessons

7.1 Our aim is to work closely with parents, to make them aware of our programme and to help them appreciate the value of sex education for their children.



7.2 Parents have the right to withdraw their children from sex education lessons, though not from those elements which are in National Curriculum Science.

7.3 If a parent wishes to withdraw a child from sex education lessons they are asked to discuss their decision with Deputy Head for Pupil Welfare.

8. Child Protection

8.1. Staff will endeavour to maintain the confidentiality of students, but in some cases – such as disclosure of child abuse and criminal behaviour – the safety of the young person is paramount over confidentiality.

8.2. All staff are made aware of child protection procedures.

