

# Policy

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# Sex Education

Published: October 2011  
For Review: 2014–15





# Our Purpose

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The work of the school is the spiritual, moral, intellectual, aesthetic and physical development of each pupil. It seeks to put Christ at the centre of every activity, worship, learning and service to others.

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**This policy was adopted by the Governing Body**

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Lavery', written over a horizontal line.

Mr R Lavery, Chair of Governing Body

Date:

5/10/2011

# **POLICY FOR SEX EDUCATION AND RELATIONSHIPS**

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## **Sex Education and Relationships**

*'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full'*  
(Jn.10.10)

### **1. Introduction**

As a Catholic School we understand that all our pupils are of intrinsic and absolute value as they are created by God and in the image of God. With this at the centre of all our teaching, and in particular our Sex and Relationship Education (SRE), we aim to make our teaching holistic and fitting to the needs of the pupils. The SRE programme at St Mary's Catholic School, Menston is underpinned by the following Church teachings:

- The dignity and worth of each person made in the image of God.
- The importance of individuals coming together in mutual support and regard, to live and work for the good of humankind and the glory of God.

### **2. What is sex and relationship education?**

“It is 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. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.”  
DfEE 0116/2000

SRE aims to meet the requirements set out by the DFE which should include:

- Education about HIV and AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases).
- Human growth and reproduction as set out in the statutory National Curriculum for Science.

SRE at St Mary's aims to meet these requirements while also encouraging pupils to consider the views of the Roman Catholic Church and the value of the human person. The key aim of the programme is to provide a teaching that is founded on Roman Catholic understanding of the human person and an appreciation that authentic human love is more than sexual expression, for the human person is made in the image and likeness of God.

### **3. Aims**

The School aims to provide a SRE programme which will:

1. Help students come to an understanding of themselves and others and encourage pupils' growth in self respect, acknowledging we are all created in the likeness of God.
2. Enable young people to learn what the Roman Catholic Church teaches and build bonds of trust and communication with each other
3. Help pupils develop an understanding that love is the central basis of relationships.
4. Help pupils to understand the nature of relationships and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people.
5. Develop pupils' confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.

6. Help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships.
7. Offer sex education in the wider context of relationships.
8. Ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty.
9. Help pupils to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle.
10. Prepare pupils to play an active role as citizens and to understand the Catholic vision of what it means to be citizens of the Kingdom/reign of God.
11. Help students develop the confidence and skills to discern messages in the media and the positive and negative effects of peer pressure, enabling them to make decisions about how to act in accordance with their own beliefs and values.
12. Ensure that all students regardless of individual differences are able to access SRE

#### **4. Practice**

1. SRE will be incorporated and delivered through the Science, Religious Education and Tutorial time (KS3).
2. The delivery of SRE will affirm the teaching of the Catholic Church whilst recognising that students need to be aware of different attitudes.
3. The help of outside agencies and speakers, who are in support of the Roman Catholic ethos of the School, will be sought to support the programme and will be invited to complement the School's teaching with their professional perspectives.
4. Provision for external support agencies will be made for pupils with specific learning difficulties. These agencies will be provided with the appropriate church teaching on SRE.
5. There will be a regular review and evaluation of the delivery of SRE that will include the views of the students. This may inform future lessons.

#### **5. Where we are currently**

*“Sexuality affects all aspects of the human person in the unity of his body and soul. It especially concerns affectivity, the capacity to love and to procreate, and in a more general way the aptitude for forming bonds of communion with others.”*

Catechism of the Catholic Church 2332

The following is an outline of what is presently done within our school community to fulfil the statutory and church requirements for SRE:

#### **6. Key Stage 3**

*Religious Education* - All students are taught from Years 7 to 13 that we are made in the image and likeness of God and are all part of the body of Christ. Therefore our vocation in life is to become more fully like Christ in ourselves and through our relationships with others. In KS3, these ideas are explored through the theme of community (Year 7), Coming of Age (Year 8) and Covenant (year 8).

*Science* - The topics of sexual reproduction and puberty in humans are taught in Year 7. The process of conception and fertility issues and pregnancy are also learnt.

*Tutorial* - In Tutorial time students in years 7 and 8 discuss the importance of team work and the issue of bullying. Gender and self awareness are further issues which are discussed.

## **7. Key Stage 4**

*Religious Education* - The very nature of the subject lends itself to the spiritual dimension of humanity. SRE is taught within the context of Roman Catholic teaching about the dignity of the human person and the significance of relationships in the development of the human person. At KS4 students study marriage, abortion, teenage pregnancy, abstinence, family life, sex, issues surrounding sexuality, civil marriage ceremonies, divorce, annulment, abortion and euthanasia. All of these topics are taught in the light of the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church

*Science* – In Biology all students learn about the menstrual cycle, fertility treatments and the use of hormone treatments to aid fertility. Students who have opted to take Health and Social Care as an option at GCSE discuss personal relationships and development. Factors affecting health such as sexually transmitted infections are also discussed.

## **8. Key Stage 5**

*Religious Education* - Religious Ethics AS students follow both an AS and A2 unit entitled 'Medical Ethics', in which they learn about different reproduction methods such as IVF; the issue of abortion, other issues surrounding sexuality. These topics challenge the Christian teaching about 'imago dei' and the principles of Natural Law.

All students in year 12 will begin to follow the new CRS programme (introduced Sept 2011). This programme of study includes lessons on community relationships and a unit entitled Sexual Ethics.

*Science* – Students who study Health and Social Care post 16 learn about the anatomy and physiology of the human body and the reproductive system. They also learn about care practice and provision.

Responsibility for schemes of work is as a result of liaison between:

PHSCE Co-ordinator  
Subject leader for Religious Education  
Faculty Leader for Science

## **9. Use of Outside Speakers**

Professionals from outside agencies may from time to time be involved in teaching aspects of the Sex Education programme. Every visitor or professional speaker involved in the programme will be made aware of the school's Sex Education policy. Great care is exercised in the choice of external speakers.

## **10. The Governing Body**

The Governing body and Foundation Governors in particular recognise their responsibility to

ensure the EPR programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church's teaching.

### **11. 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 pertaining 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.'(Bishops' Low Week Meeting 1994). The Governing body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishops' Conference. The Governors will always strive to ensure that:

- Parents are supported in their task. -
- Parents are consulted and kept informed of the EPR Programme and its contents and any subsequent developments.

### **12. Monitoring and Evaluating**

The programme will be monitored in a number of ways:

- feedback from pupils
- regular review by teachers delivering the programme review (once a year)
- In light of review and amended statutory requirements programme revision also takes place.

### **13. The Parental Right of Withdrawal from Sex Education Lessons**

It is our hope that parents would wish pupils to be involved in the schools programme of sex and relationship education. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from this but not from those areas which are required by National Curriculum Science.

Parents with concerns are invited in the first instance, to arrange an appointment with the school to discuss these concerns and see if they can be resolved. If the matter remains unresolved, parents need to notify the Governors of their intention to withdraw their child from the sex education programme.

### **14. Child Protection Issues**

Teachers will endeavour to maintain confidentiality of students, but it should be realised that in some cases – such as disclosure of child abuse or criminal behaviour – further advice will have to be sought. The Child Protection procedures are known to staff.