Lambeth

St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School

Wisdom & Faith

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Developing every child's full potential in an outstanding learning environment on their journey in wisdom and faith.

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Healthy Schools

British Values

INVESTORS IN PUPILS

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

'St. Mary's School is committed to providing the best possible education for all children and to developing each child's full potential. The teachings of Christ inform all our efforts and the way in which we treat one another. We seek to provide an orderly, stimulating environment in which effort and personal success are rewarded, special gifts are catered for and needs are met.'
St Mary's Mission Statement

The governors of St Mary's welcome the opportunity to offer a programme of Relationships and Sex Education which reflects the teachings of the Catholic Church and which will enable our pupils to grow as secure and confident individuals, into mature responsible adults capable of forming and sustaining loving and stable relationships.

Catholic Teaching

'In a Catholic school all education relating to human love and human development must be in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. It is the responsibility of the Governing Body, working with the head teacher, to ensure that this is achieved through an appropriate policy and through careful monitoring of the teaching resources used. On all questions relating to faith and morals, the Catechism of the Catholic Church is normative.

Diocesan Policy for Education in Human Love, Archdiocese of Southwark

'God created man and woman in his own image, with equal dignity, different yet complimentary. Our sexuality is a gift from God, and must be expressed according to His will of love. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and we are one body with Christ. Chastity should be presented in a positive way: it is a gift from God, leading to a self-control which frees us to behave towards ourselves and others with love and with justice. God's holy gift of sexual intercourse is reserved for the permanent commitment of marriage, expressing the bond of mutual love and open to God's gift of new life. Genuine love is the fundamental vocation of every human being.'

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

Aims

- To develop in the children a positive attitude to sexuality as a gift from God
- To bring children to greater awareness of the teachings of the Catholic Church in relation to relationships, chastity and sex
- To know that God loves them and they find God's love in their relationships
- To develop and promote respect for self and others
- To enable children to develop the skills to conduct and sustain positive relationships based on love and mutual respect
- To enable children to take responsibility for their actions and to be aware of the consequences
- To enable children to reflect on and deal with their feelings and experiences in a positive way
- To develop in children a knowledge and understanding of the individual's rights and responsibilities
- To develop in children a knowledge and understanding of their own bodies and how they change
- To enable pupils to have a secure knowledge and understanding of human reproduction
- To enable children to communicate using appropriate vocabulary

- To prepare children to live safely in the modern world and to be aware that other families may not be the same as their own

Parental Involvement

- The school acknowledges parents as the prime educators of their children in all matters including those of human love and relationships. It is the duty of the school to cooperate and provide what is best done in the school context.

- The school encourages parents to be actively involved with this aspect of the curriculum and guidance is given by class teachers if requested
- Details are given to all parents regarding the RSE programme and content their child will be studying
- The school strongly recommends that all children attend the RSE lessons provided by the school but recognises the parents' right to withdraw their child from these lessons
- Teachers are available to discuss any part of the RSE programme with parents before, during or after the lessons have taken place
- Details of the school's RSE resources are available to parents on request

Questions and Answers

Where a child asks a question in good faith the question will be dealt with appropriately by the teacher. Where the question involves some of the more sensitive/ social issues the teacher will respond in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. The child will be encouraged to discuss these issues further with their parents.

Safeguarding

If a teacher feels that a child's enquiry may have arisen because of abuse of any sort this concern must be brought to the attention of the Designated Person for Child Protection in the school (or the deputy Designated Person for Child Protection in her absence).

The Designated Person for Child Protection is Miss Doody, Headteacher.

The deputy Designated Person for Child Protection is Mrs Benedykt, Inclusion Manager.

Respect for self and others

Children are taught to respect themselves and others during RSE lessons. The use of inappropriate language or gestures intended to insult or upset others will not be tolerated.

Peer on peer abuse

Staff are aware that sexual violence and sexual harassment can occur between two children of any age and sex and children are made aware of inappropriate behaviour and that inappropriate behaviour, sexual violence and sexual harassment will not be tolerated.
Pupils reporting abuse will be reassured that they are being taken seriously and that they will be supported and kept safe.
The Safeguarding Lead will be notified immediately by the adult that receives the disclosure from the pupil.

Teaching and Learning

Key Stage 2
The class teacher will deliver the programme as appropriate.
When it is deemed to be more appropriate for a male or a female teacher to deliver a specific part of the programme (e.g. menstruation), or it is felt that children would be more comfortable undertaking the lessons with a teacher of the same gender then this will be organised accordingly.

We use the 'A Journey in Love' Programme to aid us in delivering our RSE content.

- The RSE Programme of Study is delivered to pupils in each Key Stage
- In Years 3-6 boys and girls are taught in gender groups for most, but not all, RSE lessons
- RSE lessons take place during the spring term
- Any content delivered through other areas of the curriculum, i.e. RE, Science or PSHEE, will be delivered in class groups

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

Foundation Stage children and children in Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) learn about:

- the importance of valuing themselves and others
- the wonder of being special and unique
- We meet God's love in our family
- We meet God's love in the community
- feelings, families and friendships
- personal safety
- their bodies and about how to keep fit and healthy

These concepts are not only taught as part of an explicit RSE programme but also in the course of the teaching of the National Curriculum, the School's RE programme: 'Come and See' and the school's PSHEE programme.

Related Polices for Reference

- Inclusion Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Religious Education Policy
- PSHEE Policy
- Science Policy
- E-Safety Policy

National Documents for Reference

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE – 2023)
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (updated September 2021)

Policy review date

This policy was reviewed in February 2024

This policy will next be reviewed in January 2025

Note

For the purposes of this policy, the term Headteacher is used to refer to the post occupied by the Head of School.