

**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Worcester**

*'Following Jesus in all we do'*

**Love and Relationships Policy**

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**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Worcester**  
**'Following Jesus in all we do'**

**Love and Relationship Education Policy Statement**

**Mission Statement**

*"We demonstrate our commitment to working as a learning community by following Jesus in all we do and giving of our best in all things.*

*We believe that each child will succeed through experiencing quality opportunities to grow closer to God through Prayer and Worship in a stimulating learning environment where love and care is shown for everyone and everything, through sharing fully in the Catholic life of the school and beyond."*

**Introduction and Rationale**

Sexuality is God's gift to us. Pope John stated that, "sexuality is an enrichment of the whole person – body, emotion and soul – and manifests its inmost meaning in leading the person to the gift of self in love". In 1987 the Bishops Conference of England and Wales recommended that all Catholic schools review their "Education in Personal Relationships" programmes to ensure that their pupils were given positive guidance in sex education. They gave schools the duty and obligation to educate pupils to an understanding, appropriate to their age, of the processes involved in their physical and moral development and how that development should be tempered by the Church's moral teaching. In short, their understanding of themselves and their relationships with others should develop positively as they grow in maturity. The school's responsibility was thus placed side-by-side with that of the parents, the first educators of children in the areas of moral education and sexual development.

**Aim**

The school seeks to provide a family life, love and relationships education programme that helps pupils to live now and in the future within the principles of Catholic moral teaching, especially with regard to their own dignity, and that of others, as human beings.

**Objective**

The key objective is to provide a teaching and learning programme designed to:

- support the personal, physical, emotional and social development of all pupils.
- enable pupils to understand that they were made by God to love and to be loved, and that love is central to all meaningful relationships.
- help pupils to a knowledge and understanding of the values of family life and marriage.
- enable pupils to have an understanding of their physical and emotional development as they grow and change, complementing the education that is being given at home while recognising that pupils come from different backgrounds and have different levels of support from their families.
- explain the process of human reproduction appropriate to the age of the pupils and in line with the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- offer pupils a Catholic framework to help them make informed decisions.

**Working with parents**

St Joseph's places great value in its working relationships with parents. The partnership between school and parents is essential in all areas of the curriculum and school life. The love and relationships programme is developmental in nature; as children progress through the school, the issues / areas taught do become more delicate in nature. Staff will always share curriculum coverage on a termly basis as is policy. Upper Key Stage Two parents will receive regular correspondence with regard to the Love and Relationships lessons. At certain times of the year these parents will be invited to school to discuss the content of the curriculum and how it will be delivered. They will be able to comment on any aspects of the programme and will be given an outline of the course their child will be following.

Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from any elements of the school's sex education programme with the exception of those elements which are required by the

National Curriculum Orders. This right will be respected and no sex education outside those areas stipulated by the National Curriculum orders will be taught without the prior consent of parents.

### **The annual programme of study for family life, love and relationships education**

will be taught within the framework of the strategy, but will draw upon other areas of the curriculum in order to enrich pupil's learning. For example, the study of nature in science will lead naturally to a discussion about concepts such as reproduction and growth. Teachers will link the programme to the work they are following in other subjects as opportunities arise and they will also respond to pupils' questions on matters to do with family life, love and relationships education in a way that is guided by their professional experience and their commitment to the Catholic ethos of the school.

The units referred to below relate to the units in the respective year booklets of the Diocesan Curriculum Strategy. The order in which they are taught will depend on the RE curriculum plan for that particular year group. As pupils grow older and mature they will be encouraged to ask more searching questions. Teachers will seek to answer these honestly and within the moral teaching of the Church, using the correct vocabulary where appropriate.

The programme being cross curricular, will not appear as a discrete subject but will be part of the Religious Education, Science and PSHE and Citizenship framework, particularly in Upper Key Stage 2. The programme will extend over all years in the school and at each stage will be attuned to the respective needs and capabilities of the various age ranges. It will pay due regard to the special needs of both boys and girls respectively.

### **Resources**

As well as being taught within the *Diocesan Curriculum Strategy for RE*, '*Learning and Growing as the People of God*' the *McCrimmons developmental programme 'A journey in Love'* will provide the main strategies and units of coverage for each year group.

### **Special Educational Needs**

Teachers recognise the sensitive nature of this subject and will plan the programme in different ways to meet the individual needs of the children, bearing in mind the age and maturity of the children.

### **Assessment**

Assessment of the subject is mainly through discussion (formal and informal), but other methods of assessment are used by the class teacher, particularly when assessing scientific knowledge.

### **Monitoring and Review**

Family Life, love and relationships education is monitored on an annual basis by the senior leadership team and class teachers. The Governors Scrutiny Sub-Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents and teachers and modification to the policy is made as necessary. A link governor will also be assigned to monitor the love and relationships curriculum.

This will be agreed at the next Governors Scrutiny, Curriculum and Catholic Life committee Meeting in May 2017