



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

RELATIONSHIPS & SEX EDUCATION POLICY

2017 - 18

SEX EDUCATION AND ITS PURPOSE

Relationship and Sex Education should encompass much more than the biological aspects of reproduction. It should be seen in the context of the education of the whole person, and take into account: knowledge, culture, experience and expectations of the students. It should include the exploration of value and moral issues and the development of self-esteem, social skills and the ability to deal with emotions. All must take place within a framework which stresses responsibility, Christian care, respect for oneself, respect for others, and for the value of family life.

Sex education at St Joseph's College must be delivered in line with the teaching of the Catholic Church and the Lasallian tradition, informing students of Catholic teachings and provide an understanding of the values of the Catholic faith.

Aims

1. To deliver a Relationship and Sex Education which is founded on scripture and the teachings of the Catholic Church.
2. To offer a programme which will inform and equip each student to make the best choices personally, morally and spiritually; with wisdom and compassion.
3. To see RSE as a responsibility shared by all staff, with the curriculum contributing to this formation of Catholic values in our students.
4. To lead students to a fuller understanding that each human being is a Child of God, created in His own image, called to a special relationship of love with Him and, therefore, to be treated with the utmost respect and reverence. As St. Paul says: "Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit" (I Cor. 6:19).
5. To provide gradual RSE which will present the relevant biological facts in the context of Christian values based on moral principles; and to protect our students from ignorance. Students will be given all necessary information and answers to their questions.

Objectives

1. To help students to acquire understanding of reproduction, human growth, and the physical and emotional developments of puberty and adolescence.
2. To equip students for adult life by empowering them to develop positive values, and to make informed decisions about sex, relationships and their health.
3. To enable students to build relationships based on mutual respect, dignity and responsibility; which are free from harm or abuse.
4. To help students to acquire the knowledge and understanding of attitudes about themselves and others from a Catholic value base; which will assist them to live in society as responsible adults.
5. To encourage students to gain a sense of their own dignity and that of others, expressed in the respect and care with which they treat people.
6. To ensure that students feel supported in accepting their own sexuality and that of others; in a positive way.

CONTENT AND DELIVERY

Relationships and Sex Education is accepted as being a sensitive issue for both parents and teachers. The Governing Body acknowledges the responsibility of parents and carers to educate their children in the area of sexual development. Governors also recognise that all of our students are entitled to a programme of Relationship and Sex Education as part of their learning experience, and that all members of the School Community have a part to play in this process. The promotion of Relationship and Sex Education in the wide context will be the responsibility of the Religious Education and Science Departments and of Year Tutor Teams. These departments will liaise with each other to co-ordinate the various elements of their particular areas of expertise. It is the responsibility of the Headmaster to ensure that the Relationship and Sex Education programme is implemented in line with the policy of the Governing Body, taking into account DfE guidelines.

Relationship and Sex Education topics in the Religious Education Curriculum

- Marriage and the vocation of marriage
- Marriage vows and sacraments
- Cohabitation
- Abortion, with particular reference to Christian teachings
- Chastity, Sexual relationships outside marriage, including adultery
- Human Sexuality and Sexual Relationships
- Heterosexuality and Homosexuality
- Contraception (taught briefly with regards to religious teachings)
- Marriage (including Christian marriage vows), annulment, divorce, same sex marriage
- Role of Men and Women
- Women in the Church
- Marriage
- Sexual relationships
- Contraception, Abortion and Euthanasia
- Cloning
- Raising awareness of FGM
- IVF

Relationship and Sex Education topics in the Science and PSHE Curriculum

- Life processes
- Organs
- Tissues
- Cells
- Organ systems
- Reproduction
- Reproductive organs
- Becoming pregnant
- Gestation and birth
- Growing up
- Respectful relationships

- Sexting, laws and social media

ROLE OF PARENTS

The policy and details of the school programme is available to parents. The Governors expect the support of parents for the programme. Under the 1993 Education Act, parents have the right to withdraw their children from part or all of the Sex Education programme. However, it is the view of the Governing Body that children so withdrawn are deprived of a vital part of the curriculum to which they are entitled.

REVIEW OF THE POLICY

It is important that the policy is kept under view and that there is an opportunity to update it when necessary, in the light of experience and of the changing needs of students

This policy was agreed by the Governors on:

It will be reviewed no later than: