



**St Joseph's College**  
**Positive Relationships & Sex**  
**Education Policy**

**Date Reviewed- April 2021**

**Next Review Date- April 2022**

## **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.

Relationships and Sex education at St Joseph's College is delivered in line with the teaching of the Catholic Church and the Lasallian tradition, providing students with an understanding of the values of the Catholic faith.

### **Aims**

1. To offer a programme which will inform and equip each student to make the best choices personally, morally and spiritually; with wisdom and compassion.
2. To see RSE as a responsibility shared by all staff, with the curriculum contributing to this formation of core values in our students.
3. 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.
4. 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, 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 through the Life Skills programme**

- Life processes
- Cells
- Organ systems
- Reproduction
- Reproductive organs
- Becoming pregnant
- Gestation and birth
- Growing up
- Healthy relationships
- Sexting, laws and social media

### **ROLE OF PARENTS**

The policy and details of the school programme is available to parents. Schools are free to determine how to deliver the content set out in the guidance, in the context of a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Governors expect the support of parents for the programme. Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory RSE. However, it is the view of the Governing Body that children withdrawn are deprived of a vital part of the curriculum to which they are entitled.

**Date of last review: April 2021**