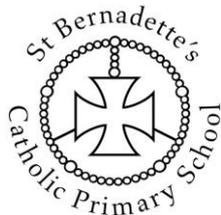


Policy: Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Date: 26th May 2017

Date created:	Jan 2015
Responsible:	Headteacher
Date Ratified:	Jan 2015
Reviewed/updated:	26 th May 2017 Ratified by FGB
Responsible Committee:	Curriculum Committee
Date to be reviewed:	When required due to new legislation or review deemed necessary by school
Statutory Policy:	Yes

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Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Catholic schools are required to deliver RSE in accordance with the teaching of the Church. RSE is part of the mission of Catholic schools to educate the whole person. At St Bernadette's, RSE is taught as part of a holistic education which seeks to *form* as well as *inform* young people in preparation for adult life.

The Bishops on the Catholic Education Service (CES) management committee have approved the embedded Catholic RSE curriculum which we have adopted at St Bernadette's. This curriculum is compatible with the guidance issued by the Department for Education.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sex-and-relationship-education>



CSE Model RSE curriculum.pdf

At St Bernadette's we ensure that RSE:

- is faithful to the Church's vision of human wholeness whilst recognising the contemporary context in which we live today;
- involves parents as they are primary educators of their child;
- provides a positive view of human sexuality and dignity of the human person;
- equips young people with the ability to make practical judgments about the right thing to do in particular circumstances;
- explores and promotes virtues which are essential to promoting respect and dignity;
- is delivered in an age appropriate way which reflects the development of the child;
- is part of the cross-curricular work;
- is sensitive to the needs of the individual pupil and recognises the mix of pupils with different sexual orientations, genders and family backgrounds in each class;
- is viewed by governors and teachers as an integrated part of the broad and balanced curriculum that Catholic schools offer;
- is delivered by competent professionals who understand the Church's teaching.

The structure of the RSE curriculum.

This RSE curriculum covers EYFS, KS1 and KS2 and is based on three core themes within which there is a broad overlap. It is adaptable to the age and ability of the pupils. The three themes are:

- **Created and loved by God** - exploring the individual. The Christian imperative to love self, made in the image and likeness of God, shows an understanding of the importance of valuing and understanding oneself as the basis for personal relationships.
- **Created to love others** - exploring an individual's relationships with others. God is love. We are created out of love and for love. The command to love is the basis of all Christian morality.

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- **Created to live in community** (local, national & global) - exploring the individual's relationships with the wider world. Human beings are relational by nature and live in the wider community. Through our exchange with others, our mutual service and through dialogue, we attempt to proclaim and extend the Kingdom of God for the good of individuals and the good of society.

Each theme covers the core strands of 'Education in Virtue' and 'Religious Understanding' as well as strands which cover the PSHE content of the theme.

At St Bernadette's, we use a range of resources to support the delivery of the CES RSE curriculum. Teachers use *A Journey in Love*, an RSE programme which promotes the teaching of the Catholic Church; our Values curriculum; the Come and See RE curriculum, the Science National Curriculum, NSPCC resources, additional focus weeks and tailored resources to ensure full coverage of the CES RSE curriculum.

Throughout our teaching of SRE, we promote:

- The belief that every human life has an intrinsic and absolute value through being created by God and in the image of God, and as a consequence, gender and sexuality are God's gift, reflect God's beauty and share in the divine creativity.
- An aspect of the mystery of love is covered in each year group. This is reflected in each stage of a person's growth in the primary years through a series of suggested, progressive and developmental tasks, activities and reflection which focus on **physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development**.

Physical Development

Within the physical development aspects of our RSE curriculum, as part of our safeguarding measures, all year groups learn about Good and Bad touches, and we use NSPCC resources to support our teaching in this area. Pupils' protective behaviours are developed through the use of the NSPCC "Underwear Rule" which covers 5 key points:

- **P**rivates are privates
- **A**lways remember your body belongs to you
- **N**o means no
- **T**alk about secrets that upset you
- **S**peak up; someone can help.

The Y4 curriculum introduces the different parts of the male and female bodies and their various functions in addition to the development of the baby in the womb.

The Y5 curriculum looks at the external and internal changes that happen to girls and boys during puberty, including menstruation. We also comply with statutory requirements by explaining to the pupils that the practice of FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) is illegal, and where they can find help and support if they have concerns about this happening to them or someone they know. Further information for parents regarding FGM can be found on the Feeling Safe pages of our school website:

<http://www.stbernadetteschool.com/safeguarding.htm>

The Y6 curriculum explains how human life is conceived through sexual intercourse, within a loving marital relationship. In compliance with statutory requirements, we also revisit the Y5 content covering FGM and also teach the children about the illegality of forced marriage.

Given the more detailed physical development content of the Y4-Y6 part of the programme, all parents and carers are invited annually to view the materials, allowing them to witness that the RSE curriculum is delivered through a range of teaching methods including:

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- biblical and theological reflections;
- reference points to the Church's teaching;
- visual illustrations;
- accurate scientific information;
- use of literature to explore emotions and issues;
- key vocabulary;
- use of different spoken and written genres.

Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw children from any or all parts of the school's sex education programme other than those which are required by the National Curriculum Science Order. All our work is in keeping with the teaching of the Catholic Church and complies with the Catholic Education Service Model Curriculum but it is understood that a small number of parents may wish to withdraw their children and they should write to the Head Teacher stating their objections.

Members of staff conduct RSE lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, or other activity which suggests that safeguarding measures need to be put in place, the member of staff will put into practice the school's safeguarding policy and procedures which can be found on the school website. <http://www.stbernadettesschool.com/policies.htm>

This policy was written following consultations with staff, governors and parents.

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