



CARDINAL  
NEWMAN  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# Sex Education Policy

Dated: Autumn 2017  
To be reviewed: Autumn 2019

## **‘Knowledge through the light of faith’**

First and foremost, our school is a faith community with a strong Catholic ethos. This impacts on all aspects of life.

### **1. Rationale for this policy**

As a Catholic School, we believe that each person is an individual created by God and each has unique value. Therefore, the education of our students in Relationships, Sexuality and Family Life should be rooted in the teaching of the Catholic Church.

The School believes in a strong and supportive partnership with parents. We recognise the vital role of parents and the home in developing students' sense of dignity and responsibility in matters of sexuality and relationships. The role of the school is to assist and support the work of parents. Parents will be fully informed about the School's provision on these topics.

### **2. Statutory Requirements**

The 1996 Education Act consolidates all relevant previous legislation and states that all schools must provide an up to date policy that describes the content and organisation of SRE provided outside the National Curriculum Science Order. The DfE Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (2000) supports this legislation and recommends that all schools should have a sex and relationship education programme tailored to the age and physical and emotional maturity of the students.

Effective SRE is key in supporting young people through their physical, emotional and moral development, enabling them to make informed life choices confidently, and furthering their respect for themselves and others as they move through life.

#### **The Children Act 1989**

This places a duty on professionals working with young people to talk about sex and relationships with young people to help them acquire knowledge and information about their bodies, sex and sexual health and to develop relevant skills.

#### **The Children Act 2004**

This builds on the above and places a duty on professionals working with young people to implement the 5 outcomes from Every Child Matters whilst ensuring their entitlement to sex and relationship education.

### **3. Objectives**

The key aim of the programme is to provide a programme of study that is founded on a Catholic understanding of the human person and an appreciation that authentic human love is more than sexual expression, for the human person is made in the image and likeness of God and this dignity is inalienable.

#### **To develop the following attitudes and virtues:**

- reverence for the gift of human sexuality and fertility;
- respect for the dignity of every human being – in their own person and in the person of others;
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures;
- responsibility for their own actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others;
- celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life; fidelity in relationships.

#### **To develop the following personal and social skills:**

- making sound judgements and good choices which have integrity and which are respectful of the individual's commitments;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying;
- managing emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, with confidence, sensitivity and dignity;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy and compassion, learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures, recognising the influence and impact of the media, internet and peer groups and so developing the ability to assess pressures and respond appropriately;
- being patient, delaying gratification and learning to recognise the appropriate stages in the development of relationships, and how to love chastely;
- assessing risks and managing behaviours to minimise the risk to health and personal integrity.

#### **To know and understand:**

- the Church's teaching on relationships and the nature and meaning of sexual love;
- the Church's teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;
- the facts about human reproduction, how love is expressed sexually and how sexual love plays an essential and sacred role in procreation;
- how to manage fertility in a way which is compatible with their stage of life, their own values and commitments, including an understanding of the difference between natural family planning and artificial contraception;

#### 4. Content

Though some issues in sex, relationships education may arise in a variety of subjects across the curriculum, our wish to follow the guidance of the Church means that the programme will be delivered primarily through Religious Education. The Religious Education Department follow the Diocesan programme 'All that I am'

##### Science

Year Group	Topics covered
Year 7	Reproduction: looking at sex cells, changes during puberty, menstrual cycle, fertilisation, how the baby grows and birth.
Year 8	
Year 9	
Year 10	Hormones, How Contraceptives can control hormones. Fertility treatment, IVF, Modern Cloning Techniques, Sexual reproduction,
Year 11	Fertilisation and Genetics
Year 12	
Year 13	

##### Religious Education

Year Group	Topics covered
Year 7	Happiness in relationships, Wants and needs, appropriate behaviours, love and lust and what makes a family happy.
Year 8	Marriage, Abortion, Personhood and Parenthood.
Year 9	Disposable and permanent lifestyles, STI's contraception, Sexting, Drugs and Alcohol and FGM
Year 10	Contraception, STI's, marriage, Sanctity of life, homosexuality, Abortion.
Year 11	Genetic Engineering, Fertility treatment and Drugs.
Year 12	
Year 13	Sexual Ethics at A2

#### 5. Use of Outside Speakers

- It is anticipated that professionals from outside agencies may be involved in delivering aspects of the sex education programme.

- Every visitor or professional speaker will be made aware of the school's policy and its Catholic ethos. To this end, great care will be exercised in the choice of external speakers

## **6. Monitoring and Evaluating**

The programme will be monitored in a number of ways: -

- Feedback from students.
- Regular reviews by teachers delivering the programme.
- Lesson observations and feedback to teachers.
- Looking at samples of students work.
- Review of the policy by the Governors

In the light of review and amended statutory requirements, programme revision will take place.

## **7. Parents' Right to Withdraw their Child from Sex Education Lessons**

Our aim is to work closely with parents, to make them aware of our programme and to help them appreciate the value of sex education for their children.

- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from sex education lessons, though not from those elements which are in National Curriculum Science.
- If a parent wishes to withdraw a child from sex education lessons they are asked to discuss their decision with Deputy Head in charge of Pastoral Care.

## **8. Child Protection**

Staff will endeavour to maintain the confidentiality of students, but in some cases – such as disclosure of child abuse, FGM and criminal behaviour – the safety of the young person is paramount over confidentiality.

All staff are made aware of child protection procedures.