



**ST. PETER CATHOLIC  
ACADEMY TRUST**  
BY SERVICE, TOWARDS GOD



# **ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

## **SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS POLICY 2018-20**

**Date of Review:** September 2018  
**Next Review:** September 2020

A registered charitable Company limited by guarantee (number 10435919)  
Address: St. Joseph's Catholic High School, Shaggy Calf Lane, Slough, Berk shire, SL2 5HW

## **INTRODUCTION**

It is the policy of St Joseph's that all pupils receive a comprehensive and structured course of education in physical development, personal relationships and family life, including where appropriate areas of sexual knowledge. In designing this programme, we have carefully considered the ethos of our Catholic School, the Teaching of the Catholic Church and the needs of our pupils, whatever their ability, age or stage of development.

Education in relationship and sexual matters can be viewed as an integral part of the formation of an individual's total personality. It endeavours to play a significant part in fulfilling the pupils' entitlement to spiritual, physical, mental, moral, cultural and environmental development and to set this in a Christian context.

The aim is to help pupils to develop a profound self respect based on their unique value and dignity as persons. We focus positively on the development of self-esteem and an understanding of the worth and needs of others. In the light of society today we believe it right and proper to alert pupils to the realities of the society we live in and the problems they will face on their journey to adulthood.

At St Joseph's we are not attempting to replace the parents' role in sex and relationships education, indeed sex and relationships education at home and at school should complement and enhance each other. However, school is able to offer some facilities and expertise that may not be available in the family. School can take into account at the same time, variations in terms of family background and differing experiences, ensuring equality of opportunity. The work undertaken in the school setting will only be a reinforcement of the ongoing support of home and will only succeed through the co-operation of parents, staff, pupils and various support agencies on whom we will call for help at times. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex and relationships Education lessons.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The aim of this programme is to -

1. Impart necessary factual knowledge
2. Improve problem solving and decision making skills
3. Provide opportunities to clarify attitudes and values, in the areas of physical development, personal relationships and family life. Through the development of these three areas we seek to provide a basis for responsible, healthy behaviour and reasoned Catholic responses to the pressures of modern society.

### **Objectives for the course in health education are:**

- to maintain the RC teaching that human love is a precious gift that enriches the personality;
- to develop a Christian conscience;
- to increase self-discipline and develop self control;
- to challenge the pupils to become more morally aware;
- to develop self-confidence and self-esteem, so that they recognise their own self-worth;
- to understand the importance of family life and friendship;
- to promote proper expression of friendship;

- to develop coping skills to resolve conflict in relationships;
- to prepare pupils for marriage;
- to help pupils to develop a mature attitude to sexual issues and to be at ease with their own sexuality and the physical and emotional changes of adolescence;
- to promote a responsible attitude towards sexual behaviour;
- to promote knowledge and understanding, as well as the development of attitudes and skills about a range of matters associated with sex and sexuality;
- to help pupils to respond to the challenge of the world they live in, in the light of Christian teaching.

### **Sex and Relationships Education:**

Maintained secondary schools have to provide sex and relationships education. This, as set out in the National Curriculum, extends to HIV, Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases, and human growth as well as reproduction. All Governing Bodies/Academy Committees must have a written policy on what sex and relationships education will consist of and how it is taught, which must be made available to parents and which encourages all pupils to consider morals and the value of family life. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex and relationships education but not from those aspects within the National Curriculum. Since July 2000 there has been a statutory responsibility on head teachers and Governing Bodies/Academy Committees to ensure that young people are taught the importance of marriage, and that they are protected from inappropriate teaching materials.

## DELIVERY OF THE PROGRAMME

Current programme for Delivery of Sex/Health Education at St. Joseph's.

YEAR	SCIENCE	DURATION
7	Reproduction – Pregnancy, birth, puberty, the menstrual cycle, Fertilisation & fertility treatments, healthy foetus	3 weeks
8		
9	Genes, inheritance, genetic disorders, hormones, infection	2 weeks
10	Inheritance Genetic engineering – Stem Cell research (abortion) Cloning	1 week 1 week 1 week
11	Sexual Reproduction, meiosis	2 weeks
12	Sexual reproduction, meiosis, gametogenous, Fertilisation, embryo development, stem cells and ethics using them, genetic diseases	
13	HIV	

YEAR	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	DURATION
7	Relationships (friendships) and community	2 weeks
8		
9	LOVE: Different meanings and uses of the word "love". How through Jesus it is possible to find new ways of loving God and our neighbour. MARRIAGE: purpose of, Catholic beliefs about. THEOLOGY OF THE BODY: how our bodies are gifts from God and how they should be treated. How relationships are gifts from God and how we should act in a relationship. Sex and ethics	Approximately 6 weeks' Worth of f lessons
10	Love of Others in Unit 10.1	1 week
11	MARRIAGE AND FAMILY: purpose of marriage, marriage ceremony, Catholic beliefs about family, marriage, divorce, remarriage, annulment, comparison with other Christian groups. MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH: contraception, abortion and euthanasia, Catholic beliefs on these topics exploring reasons why and comparison with other Christian groups.	6 weeks  6 weeks

YEAR	GEOGRAPHY	DURATION
8	Government birth control policies (India vs China) – One Child Policy and forced sterilisation	1 half term

9	Development of a Country - focusing on: Birth Rates, Infant Mortality, the use of contraception, family planning. Discussions on fertility rates and the link between rich and poor countries and how to change these figures for a country to develop.	1 half term
10-11	Contraception within other cultures is covered within the Geography GCSE syllabus (Population change and development)	1 half term

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>DRAMA</b>	<b>DURATION</b>
7	Knife crime is explored through practical work Cyber-bullying is discussed and students engage in drama activities to represent the issues raised	
8		

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>CHAPLAINCY</b>	
All	It is the Chaplains role to support students who experience difficulties as well as to promote the Catholic ethos of the school through assemblies, masses, retreats, and educational visits	