

CORPUS CHRISTI  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



# Sex and Relationship Education Policy

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Corpus Christi School exists to serve the Catholic communities of Brixton Hill and its neighbouring parishes.

We are here to educate the children to the highest possible standard in a community, which has the Gospel values, traditions and beliefs of the Catholic Faith at the centre of its ethos.

In all aspects of the school, Christian values will be upheld, with an emphasis on respect, helpfulness, unselfishness and co-operation.

## POLICY STATEMENT:

*“... children and young people should be helped to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual qualities... they should receive a positive and prudent education in matters relating to sex, and young people have their right to be stimulated to make sound moral judgment based on well-informed conscience and to put them into practice with a sense of personal commitment ...”*

***Gravissimum Educationis (para. 3)  
Second Vatican Council***

The Corpus Christi Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) policy is based on a combination of the Qualification and Curriculum Authority (QCA), Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) and other schemes of the Catholic Church, including ‘A Journey in Love’.

SRE is part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PHSE) curriculum in the school and is used to inform and guide the children in all areas of interpersonal relationships, including friendships and family relationships, and in upper KS2 puberty and reproduction. This is carried out with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility, and in a way that allows children to ask and explore moral questions.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Corpus Christi aims to integrate SRE into the curriculum in such a way as to meet the particular needs of children as they grow and develop. It will seek to answer questions honestly when they occur, and in a manner appropriate to the child’s age. From a child’s early years, the SRE aims to:

- provide information that is relevant and appropriate to the age and developmental stage of the pupils
- foster self-esteem, positive self-image and confidence.
- foster respect for self, to others, and a growing appreciation of the dignity of Christian marriage and family life in line with the school’s RE programme “Come and See”

Children in Years 5 and 6 are given appropriate facts and information about puberty and sexual development.

## CURRICULUM ORGANISATION

SRE is taught through different aspects of the curriculum. The main teaching of SRE is through 'A Journey in Love' which is developmental programme for primary school children. It is also taught through PSHE and Citizenship although some SRE is taught through other subject areas (for example RE, PE, and Science) where it contributes significantly to a child's knowledge and understanding of this or her relationships with others or their own body and how it changes and develops.

In KS1, children are taught:

- we are children of God
- about main parts of the body
- to recognize similarities and differences between themselves and others
- to identify and share their feelings with each other
- to recognize safe and unsafe situations
- to identify someone to talk to that they can trust
- Relationships within family, friendships and community
- animals, including humans, move, feed, grow and reproduce

In KS2 children are taught:

- life processes (including in upper KS2 physical changes that take place at puberty, why they happen and how to manage them)
- the main stages of the human life cycle
- to express their opinions about relationships and bullying, learning to listen and to support others
- to respect other peoples' views and beliefs and celebrate differences
- to recognize their own self-worth and identify positive things about themselves

### **Foundation Stage**

The SRE scheme 'A Journey in Love' is introduced to children at Nursery where they learn about friendship and Jesus is our friend. This is further developed in Reception where children learn about 'God's Love in Our Family'. Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) plays a major role in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. Children are taught to manage their own personal needs, develop the social skills they need to build successful relationships, and to take into account and respect the ideas of others. PSED is taught as a separate subject; however, its objectives are taught throughout the other areas of learning to encourage children's own sense of self-worth and positive relationships with peers and adults.

### **Teaching and Learning Styles**

SRE is taught in a variety of ways, including taught sessions, class and group discussion, and media including SRE and PSHE videos and computing resources. In upper KS2 during Sex and Relationship Education classes, children also have the opportunity to ask anonymous questions to address any concerns or issues not previously covered.

Parents are sent reminder letters prior to the teaching of Upper KS2 Sex and Relationship Education lessons. These lessons are delivered in separate gender groups by same-gender staff.

### **Assessment and Recording**

Work in SRE is recorded in Religion books, where the outcome is a non-verbal response to lessons. Elements of SRE in the science curriculum are assessed formally. Some aspects of Sex and Relationship education are recorded during PSHE lessons also.

### **Resources**

The school's SRE resources are in line with Catholic teaching and the school's SRE policy. SRE is based on the QCA units issued by the government in partnership with a range of resources from Mc Crimmons – 'A Journey in Love', Young London Matters *SRE Core Curriculum for London: A Practical Resource* and also resources from the BBC and *Channel 4*.

## SPECIFIC ISSUES WITHIN SRE

### **Withdrawal**

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the SRE provided at the school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum. Those parents/carers wishing to exercise this right are invited to see the Headteachers who will explore any concerns and discuss any impact withdrawal may have on the child. Once a child has been withdrawn they cannot take part in the SRE programme until the request for withdrawal has been removed.

Prior to Upper KS2 Sex and Relationship Education lessons, a letter will be sent home explaining the content and parents are invited to an information evening where any questions can be addressed.

### **Confidentiality**

As a general rule, children's confidentiality is maintained by the teacher or member of staff concerned. However, staff never promise absolute confidentiality as work relating to SRE may give rise to concerns or disclosures. In those cases, staff follow the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection policy.

### **Child Protection**

Corpus Christi has a separate Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. Effective SRE may bring about disclosures of child protection issues and staff should be aware of the procedures for reporting their concerns.

### **Controversial and Sensitive Issues**

Staff are aware that views around SRE are varied. However, while pupil views are respected, all SRE issues are taught within the framework of the Catholic values. Pupils are made aware of a variety of views and beliefs so that they are able to form their own, informed opinions but also understand that others may have different opinions.

### **Dealing with Questions.**

Both formal and informal SRE issues that arise from children's questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the pupil concerned. Questions do not have to be answered directly, and can be addressed individually later. The school believes that individual teachers must use their skills and discretion in this area.