

► **Core Theme 3. Growing in love for my character and well-being.**

Children learn how to care for their physical health, knowing God loves them. Well-being is also about a state of mind, and it is important children learn to understand that though they may behave inappropriately, it is their behaviour that is wrong, not themselves, Jesus tells us that God never tires of being merciful. They are developing a relationship with God through taking some responsibility for their faith development. Love of neighbour can only be an act of faith when the child knows they are formed and loved by God and called to live in the Holy Spirit. In a busy school life, children need to find time for God who is already waiting for them.

Thank you for your time. If you would like to know more, please contact the school office.



"Then some people came to him bringing little children for him to touch. The disciples tried to discourage them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant and told them, "You must let little children come to me - never stop them! For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Indeed, I assure you that the man who does not accept the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Then he took the children in his arms and laid his hands on them and blessed them.(The Gospel of Mark 10:13-16)



Diocese of Lancaster
Education Service

EDUCATION SERVICE



**Human Relationships Education.
Information for Parents and Carers.**

As a school in the Diocese of Lancaster, we use the term Human Relationships and Sex Education (HRSE) to describe children's learning about their relationship with God, with themselves and with others, as part of developing their understanding of how life in God brings true happiness. Jesus' commandment,

“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... You must love your neighbour as yourself.”

(The Gospel of Matthew 22:36-40)

inspires the whole of our teaching about forming friendships and caring for ourselves and each other in school life.

Learning about relationships is part of the life of the school where everyone is encouraged to show respect and kindness towards each other. We teach how everyone must work to form their character. Everyone is created equal, with equal dignity in the eyes of God but how we behave is a matter of choice, which means forming habits of happiness, patterns that bring us to a beautiful life as described by Jesus.

► **Recognising the role of parents and carers.**

A child's first experience of love is in the home. Our school recognises that in faith, as in all things, parents are the first educators of their children. We always want to work with families in a supportive partnership.

► **What do we teach?**

► **The Foundation Stage.** Teaching and learning about relationships looks at developing habits of behaviour that care for ourselves and show respect and courtesy for others, such as tidying up and saying “thank you”. They are encouraged to see beauty in the world, in themselves and in others and children listen to stories of Jesus and learn how he behaved with kindness, mercy, compassion and courage.



► **Key Stages One and Two**, teaching Human Relationships Education takes place through three core themes. **Core Theme 1. Growing in love for myself and God.** Children are enabled to develop a sense of their worth, celebrating the “Wow!” in Creation and growth in ourselves and animals, giving context to the Science curriculum. They are taught to respect difference as we are all unique, yet all a part of God's Creation. In Years 5 and 6, they develop an understanding of puberty as part of HRSE. As well as understanding biology, children are invited to notice the wonder of how a baby grows and reflect on the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is a thought of God.”

► **Core Theme 2: Growing in love for family, friends, faith and community.**

A part of knowing how to build relationships with others is understanding forgiveness and the importance of mercy. Jesus' life provides examples of the joy of friendship. He calls us to love one another, and we can choose to do this by growing more like him. In Key Stage 2, we focus on the following areas.

- **Families:** Jesus teaches us to know God as Father, and one of the deepest realities and images of the Christian faith is experiencing God as a loving parent, forgiving and merciful.
- **Friendship:** Jesus offered friendship to those on the margins of society, such as tax collectors, children should reflect on how they choose friends.
- **Faith:** Children begin to form their ideas about their religious faith and be aware of the faith of others. Faith directs the way we behave and the Catholic faith has a particular sacramental relationship with God. Marriage is one of those sacraments.
- **Community:** How groups of people with shared aims can work together, and how the school is a community.