



Believe \* Achieve \* Serve

## RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

### Mission Statement

'At Ursuline Catholic Primary School we aim to build up a Christian Community which develops the full spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical potential of each and every pupil in the happy, caring, supportive, family atmosphere of a Catholic School.

Together we endeavour, in all things, to honour God's name, to advance His Kingdom and to carry out His will.'

### Rationale

***'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full'***  
**(Jn.10.10)**

We acknowledge that Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship, as well as Relationship and Sex Education (RSE), are all underpinned by a theology of relationship and are all encompassed in the title 'Relationships and Sex Education' (RSE).

**Our belief in the unique dignity of the human person as made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in our school.**

Our approach to relationship and sex education therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and is presented positively and prudently.

Stemming from this vision of what it means to be human, we seek to educate the whole child: **spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally, psychologically and physically towards our understanding of the Christian maturity.**

Following guidance from our own Bishop and Diocese, the Conference of Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE, all relationship and sex education in our school will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as *it is concerned primarily with nurturing the human wholeness of our pupils.*

All relationship and sex education will be in accordance with the Church's moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging, in accordance with the Equality Act (2010), that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from. In light of this, the school will provide support to help pupils deal with different sets of values.

### **Aims of Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)**

- To encourage pupils' growth in self-respect, acknowledging we are all created in the image and likeness of God.
- To help pupils develop an understanding that love is the central basis of relationships.
- To help pupils to understand the nature of relationships and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people.
- To develop pupils' confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships.
- To help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships.
- To give sex education in the wider context of relationships.
- To ensure that pupils protect themselves and ask for help and support when needed.
- To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty.
- To help pupils to develop a healthier, safer lifestyle.
- To prepare pupils to play an active role as citizens and to understand the Catholic vision of what it means to be citizens of the Kingdom/reign of God.

## **Relationship and Sex Education delivery**

RSE is taught through our life style in school and through the subjects of Religious Education, Science and by way of a cross-curricular, integrated approach

All elements of PSHE and Citizenship, whilst non-statutory at Key Stage 1 and 2, are covered. Significant aspects of relationship and sex education remain part of the National Curriculum for Science. These will be taught to all pupils – parents are unable to withdraw pupils from such lessons.

### **Foundation and Key Stage 1 (5-7)**

- That humans move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce;
- To name the main external parts of the body;
- That humans grow from babies into children and then into adults, and that adults can produce babies;
- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and other pupils.

### **Key Stage 2 (7-11)**

- That life processes common to humans and all animals include nutrition, growth and reproduction.
- The main stages of the human life cycle.

We acknowledge that every area of school life can potentially contribute to RSE as the school, of its very nature operates through positive human relationships. We recognise, value and greatly appreciate the contribution made by all members of staff in deepening the quality of our Christian community.

Teachers will use their professional judgement when addressing issues in RSE. Careful consideration will be given to the wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the pupils in their care.

While we operate a whole school approach to Relationship and Sex Education through our RSE programme, pupils in Year Five will learn about the emotional and physical changes of puberty.

### **The role of Parents and Guardians**

The Church has always recognised that it is the privilege and the responsibility of parents and guardians to educate and inform their children in all matters pertaining to personal growth and development particularly in the sensitive area of their moral education and sexual development. The Church also recognises that many parents and guardians require help and support in this task from both schools and parishes.

The Governing body fully subscribes to the views expressed by the Bishops' Conference and will always ensure that:

parents and guardians are supported in their task

school works in partnership with parents, guardians and other stakeholders, sharing relevant information about the curriculum and its delivery.

### **Resources**

'Come and See' programme of Religious Education as prescribed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool, their 'Come and See and RSE links' document and the Other Faith weeks of Judaism and Islam.

'A Journey in Love – a developmental programme for children in the primary years' by Sr Jude Groden and recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

'No Outsiders in Our School: Teaching the Equality Act in Primary Schools' by Andrew Moffat

Plus other resources as they become available/relevant such as

E-Safety materials - NSPCC

'SafeSkills' by Ariel Trust with the support of Merseyside Police

Note:

Rainbows programme – an emotional healing programme for children grieving a loss from a life-altering crisis is regularly offered to parents for their children.

### **Assessment Recording and Reporting**

A record is kept in teacher's planning of the delivery of RSE. The programme is assessed, monitored and evaluated in accordance with the school's policies. Pupils are given the opportunity for self-evaluation at an appropriate level for each year group.

### **Outside Agencies**

The expertise of outside agencies may be used appropriately to support the school's delivery.

### **Safeguarding Procedures**

The school has a Child protection and Safeguarding Policy that is regularly reviewed. All governors, staff and volunteers are required to read it and confirm they have done so in writing. The designated Safeguarding Leads are: Mr Mark McQueen, Mrs Chris Chai, Miss Catherine Fitzsimons and Miss Beth Chai.

### **The Governing Body**

The Governing Body, and Foundation Governors in particular, recognise their responsibility to ensure the RSE programme follows Diocesan principles and reflects the Church's teaching.

### **Right of Withdrawal**

It is our hope that parents and guardians would wish their children to be involved in the school's programme of Relationship and Sex Education, following regular consultation regarding the school's approach. However, we recognise parents and guardians have the right to withdraw their children from such lessons (not included in National Curriculum Science) after discussion with the Headteacher.

Adopted by the Governing body, Spring 2017

Policy and resources shared with parents on 28<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017

*To be reviewed 2020*