



# Sex and Personal Relationships Policy 2015

## Monitoring

By	Review period	Method
Board of Governors	Bi-annual	Meeting

Ownership: Clare Bailey, Assistant Principal

## Revision History

Review	Changes	Next review date
13/7/2015	Update of policy and detail of curriculum removed	July 2017

## Purpose of the Policy

- To support the personal, educational, moral and spiritual development of all our young people
- To promote a real sense of self-esteem and respect for oneself and the wider community
- To ensure that young people have the ability to accept their own and other's sexuality in positive ways
- To encourage Christian values and responsible attitudes towards sexual behaviour which are truly Gospel inspired
- To provide support and information for young people and their parents and to clarify individual rights
- To help pupils resist peer, social and media pressures when in conflict with sound moral judgement
- To deepen understanding of Christian understanding of what it means to be human
- To develop an understanding of the personal discipline necessary to deal with their own emotions while at the same time growing compassionate, caring people

*“Sex and Personal Relationships Education” is defined as lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. In the context of this Catholic College, an emphasis is put on giving individuals (with infinite potential) all the information and guidance they need to take up the challenge of their faith in this area. This complements, but does not replace, the work done through the parish churches and associated faith groups.*

The three following concepts underpin the teaching of Relationships at our College:

- The dignity and worth of each person made in the image of God. *“Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary.*
- We are called to love and be loved, “God is love and whoever lives in love lives in God”
- We are called to form relationships to live in community *“wherever two or more of you are gathered in my name there I am”*

## **St Joseph's Vision and Values and how this policy support this**

*Our Catholic College seeks to be a community in which all are valued, where the life and relationships of the College are permeated by Gospel values and in which the individual is seen as unique, with infinite potential for growth towards wholeness. The College, in active partnership with home, parish and the wider community, endeavours to prepare all its members for a future in which they will be able to make a positive contribution and take up the challenge of their faith.*

This policy supports the vision by enabling students to gain the knowledge and understanding to develop relationships and make a positive contribution to society.

The framework for this policy is as follows;

- Gravissimum Educationis, Second Vatican Council
- 'All that I am' programme, Archdiocese of Birmingham
- Marriage care PHSE programme 'Foundations for a good life'
- Sex and Relationships Education Guidance, DfE 2012
- Guidance for Relationship's Education in Schools 2012

### **Rationale:**

St Joseph's seeks to present its students with opportunities to think about, discuss and explore the real meaning of personal relationships.

The DfE statutory guidance defines SRE as lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is about the development of the pupil's knowledge and understanding of her/himself as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with self and others and being able to make moral decisions in conscience.

The DfE document identifies three main elements; "attitudes and values, personal and social skills, and knowledge and understanding."

*"...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 ...young people have the right to be stimulated to make sound moral judgements based on well-informed conscience and to put them into practice with a sense of personal commitment..."*

Gravissimum Educationis (para 3)  
Second Vatican Council

*"We are made in God's image and therefore destined to live in relationships with others, to form community: called to love and be loved"*  
Sex and Relationship Guidance DfE

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the first and best educators of their children and we look to work in partnership with them. Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their children from sex and relationship education, excepting those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders.

Parents and carers are encouraged to talk to their children about lessons at the College and to listen to their questions and thoughts.

Consultation regarding the Policy has taken place with some parents within the community and suggestions for amendments have been taken into consideration in updating of the Policy.

The Policy is available to view by parents and carers on the College website.

## **Management of the Programme**

- Sex and personal relationship education is taught in an age-appropriate way within classroom topic work, using outside agencies where necessary and involving the College chaplaincy and the College nurse
- Students are taught mostly in mixed gender groupings but where there is a need, single gender groups are used
- Sex and relationship education will be delivered through the Personal, Social, Health and Economic education programme as well as Science and Religious Education curriculum
- The Governors of the College are responsible for ensuring the development of a sex and relationship policy that is in keeping with Catholic teaching
- The Governors will ensure that the programme and the resources are monitored and evaluated

## **SRE in the Curriculum**

The key aim of the College programme is to provide a resource that is founded on the 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.

*'Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary'*

Inaugural Address of Pope Benedict XVI

The core aims of the programme are;

- To help students come to an understanding of themselves and others as fully human 'As the image of God we are created for love'. Truth and Meaning of human sexuality
- To enable young people to learn what the Church teaches and build bonds of trust and communication with each other
- To augment students understanding of their physical and emotional development
- To promote ways in which young people can examine contemporary stereotypes of masculine and feminine behaviour and assume responsibility for their actions
- To help students develop the confidence and skills to discern messages in the media and the positive and negative effects of peer pressure; enabling them to make decisions about how to act in accordance with their own beliefs and value
- To reflect on the scriptures, the words and actions of Christ 'wherever two or more of you are gathered in my name, there I am'.

The Designated Safe-Guarding lead is: Kathryn Sanders and Deputy Liz Vincent

An outline of the programme is included with the course descriptions on the College website <http://www.stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk> Hard copies are available through Student Managers. Should withdrawal from all or part of the lesson be sought, parents are asked to contact the Principal in writing, in advance.

Linked to:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy