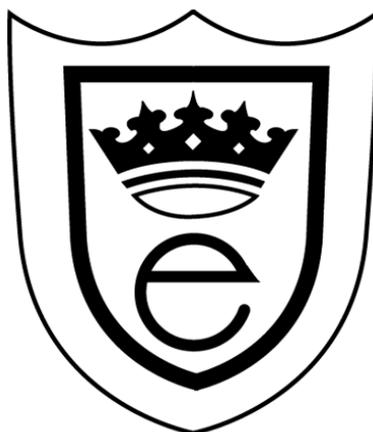


St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School



Relationships and Sex Education Policy

School Mission Statement and Values

Our mission at St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School is to educate our children to reach their full potential in the context of a Catholic community in which each individual shares, or is in sympathy with, the teachings of the Catholic Church and the Christian way of life.

Our core values of **equality, excellence, kindness, forgiveness, perseverance, friendship, courage, service and respect** were chosen by our pupils to be the overriding principles to which the whole school aspires, together with our golden rule, "Love one another as I have loved you" *John 13:34*.

We seek to make St Elizabeth's School a secure, happy and inclusive environment that is a place:

- of the highest quality teaching and learning;
- of compassion, co-operation and reconciliation;
- where each child is seen and appreciated as a unique individual;
- in which every child's talents are developed and their needs met;
- where mistakes are learning opportunities;
- in which all children are empowered to keep themselves safe and healthy;
- where endeavour and excellence are encouraged and celebrated;
- in which cultural diversity is respected and valued;

We value worshipping and celebrating together, sharing our Christian witness and drawing strength from and serving our local parishes and the wider community.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body annually.

The policy was last reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body in May 2017.

It is due for review in May 2018.

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Rationale "... 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 the right to be educated to make sound moral judgements, based on a well-informed conscience and to put them into practice with a sense of personal commitment.... And to know and to love God more perfectly." *Gravissimum Educationis (para 3)* Second Vatican Council.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is developed through cross-curricular links, for example within Science, RE and PSHE, but essentially RSE is concerned with the development of positive relationships with ourselves, other people, the world around us and with God.

Aims

- To appreciate the whole of creation as a sign of God's love.
- To develop a greater understanding of the nature of relationships with families, friends and communities which exist in our multi-cultural, multi-faith society.
- To develop a greater understanding of the responsibilities of the individual.
 - To promote good health and understanding of physical development, respecting and reverencing the wonder of the body.
 - To promote self-esteem and well-being.
- To support the personal, moral and social development of all pupils.

Objectives

By the end of Key Stage 1 the majority of pupils should be able:

- To understand the importance of valuing themselves and others.
- To recognise their membership of the family and recognise the roles of individuals in families.
- To understand growth and know the features of being male or female.
- To recognise that babies have special needs.
- To appreciate relationships with friends and family; caring, working together, sharing and playing together.
- To take responsibility for how they treat others.
- To know about rituals that mark life, and especially birth, marriage and death.
- To recognise a range of emotions and how to deal with them.
- To know about being safe.
- To have an awareness of personal health, safety and hygiene.

By the end of Key Stage 2 the majority of pupils should be able:

- To appreciate that life is precious and a gift from God, and to use this gift in God's service.
- To value themselves as a child of God, and their body as God's gift to them.
- To understand that they grow and change throughout life.
- To understand what is meant by relationships within families, friends and communities.
- To develop an appreciation of what is involved in bringing up children and what responsibilities parents have.
- To become aware of the different patterns of friendship.
- To know the rituals celebrated in Church marking birth, marriage and death.
- To be aware of their changing emotions and the need to respect the emotions and feelings of other people.
- To begin to know about and understand the changes that come about through puberty.
- To know and understand their own bodies and their need for personal hygiene.
- To know the names for the parts of the body.
- To know the basic biology of human reproduction.
- To become aware of the choices they make and understand that there are good choices and wrong choices.
- To recognise the importance of forgiveness in relationships.

Equal Opportunities

St Elizabeth's RSE programme reflects its commitment to the principle of equal opportunities in accordance with Government guidelines and Church teaching. This ensures the entitlement of all pupils, regardless of race, gender or disability, to develop their self-esteem and self-identity and to enable a confident participation in the curriculum. We intend that the subject be taught so that the equal but different natures of men and women are not compromised. We will endeavour to provide male and female role models whenever possible. It is also our aim to ensure that this programme of study is culturally relevant in order to address the different needs of all our pupils and be sensitive to individual personal circumstances.

Organisation

The PSHE Coordinator has the responsibility, along with the Head Teacher and the RE Coordinator, to ensure that the planned RSE programme is delivered effectively. All class teachers will be responsible for delivering their section of the programme to their class. All teachers will be expected to incorporate the Catholic RSE programme – 'A Journey in Love'.

The School Nurse will be employed to deliver more effectively certain aspects of the Sex Education programme. This will be organised by the PSHE Coordinator when and where appropriate and monitored by the teachers concerned, as well as the Senior Leadership Team. Classes will remain mixed (boys and girls) for all elements of the RSE programme, except in Years 5 and 6, where separate single sex sessions will be held.

Specific Issues

All RSE in St Elizabeth's will be taught in line with the advice and guidance of the Diocese of Southwark, in conjunction with government recommendations. Staff see their role as one of supporting parents as the primary educators of their children and staff's own personal beliefs and attitudes will not influence the Catholic teaching of RSE at the school.

Working with Parents

RSE is a joint partnership between school and parents. The 'Journey in Love' materials will be made available to parents of all year groups. Parents wishing to discuss specific aspects of the planned curriculum are invited to make an appointment with the Head Teacher. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any RSE lesson, except for elements in the National Curriculum Science Programme. However, parents must be aware that RSE takes place at home, in the school playground, on TV and on the Internet, through the use of mobile devices, and in the media, so withdrawing a child from these lessons may result in the child having an incomplete and confused understanding of the issues and subject taught. The school seeks to help to educate children appropriately and with great sensitivity, to dispel myths and ignorance.

Confidentiality

Children have a right to ask questions in a supportive environment. Our intention is to make every child feel safe and secure in the school environment so that they can ask questions to gain a fuller understanding of the content covered in class.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Children will be made aware that disclosures that fall within the realm of child protection will be pursued. Preventing child sexual abuse/exploitation will be identified in the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and procedures and staff will be made fully aware of these (See Child Protection Policies).

Role of Governors

Governors have the legal responsibility of deciding whether or not RSE should be taught in school. The Diocese advises that schools provide this education for the needs of its children. Governors, in consultation with staff and advisors are involved in the dialogue as to what materials might be used to teach RSE and in reviewing the policy.

Procedures for Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of the school's approach to RSE will be assessed annually. This will include feedback from the staff, parents and the children. All materials used will have been previously reviewed and assessed for suitability by the PSHE subject leader, members of the SLT and a member of the governing body of the school.

Additional Information

The RSE programme will be incorporated into the PSHE scheme of work. Alongside the PSHE Scheme of work, teachers will also use the 'Journey in Love' lesson plans and visual presentations.