



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Malvern

Love and Relationships Policy

Reviewed September 2024

Review date: September 2025

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Malvern

'Following in the footsteps of Jesus, together we love, live and learn.'

Love and Relationship Education Policy Statement

Mission Statement

"St Joseph's is a caring community, a family growing in faith and belief with a love of learning.

Our vision is to:

Create a safe and caring learning environment with positive relationships and high expectations, where our uniqueness is respected and celebrated and where we develop skills and confidence for an ever- changing world."

Introduction and Rationale

Sexuality is God's gift to us. Pope John stated that, "sexuality is an enrichment of the whole person – body, emotion and soul – and manifests its inmost meaning in leading the person to the gift of self in love". In 1987 the Bishops Conference of England and Wales recommended that all Catholic schools review their "Education in Personal Relationships" programmes to ensure that their pupils were given positive guidance in sex education. They gave schools the duty and obligation to educate pupils to an understanding, appropriate to their age, of the processes involved in their physical and moral development and how that development should be tempered by the Church's moral teaching. In short, their understanding of themselves and their relationships with others should develop positively as they grow in maturity. The school's responsibility was thus placed side-by-side with that of the parents, the first educators of children in the areas of moral education and sexual development.

Aim

The school seeks to provide a family life, love and relationships education programme that helps pupils to live now and in the future within the principles of Catholic moral teaching, especially with regard to their own dignity, and that of others, as human beings.

Objective

The key objective is to provide a teaching and learning programme designed to:

- support the personal, physical, emotional and social development of all pupils.
- enable pupils to understand that they were made by God to love and to be loved, and that love is central to all meaningful relationships.
- help pupils to a knowledge and understanding of the values of family life and marriage.
- enable pupils to have an understanding of their physical and emotional development as they grow and change, complementing the education that is being given at home while recognising that pupils come from different backgrounds and have different levels of support from their families.
- explain the process of human reproduction appropriate to the age of the pupils and in line with the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- offer pupils a Catholic framework to help them make informed decisions.

Working with parents

St Joseph's places great value in its working relationship with parents. The partnership between school and parents is essential in all areas of the curriculum and school life. The love and relationships programme is developmental in nature; as children progress through the school, the issues / areas taught do become more delicate in nature. Parents are consulted on their views on this curriculum and their views taken into account when delivering the curriculum. Upper Key Stage Two parents will receive correspondence with

regard to the Love and Relationships lessons. Whilst the relationship and health curriculum is statutory at primary age, the sex education is not. Section 241 of the Education Act 1993 gives parents the right to withdraw their children from any elements of the school's sex education programme, with the exception of those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Orders. This right will be respected and no sex education outside those areas stipulated by the National Curriculum orders will be taught without the prior consent of parents.

The annual programme of study for family life, love and relationships education

This will be taught within the framework of the strategy, but will draw upon other areas of the curriculum in order to enrich pupil's learning. For example, the study of nature in science will lead naturally to a discussion about concepts such as reproduction and growth. Teachers will link the programme to the work they are following in other subjects as opportunities arise and they will also respond to pupils' questions on matters to do with family life, love and relationships education in a way that is guided by their professional experience and their commitment to the Catholic ethos of the school.

The units referred to below relate to the units in the respective year booklets of the Diocesan Curriculum Strategy. The order in which they are taught will depend on the RE curriculum plan for that particular year group. As pupils grow older and mature they will be encouraged to ask more searching questions. Teachers will seek to answer these honestly and within the moral teaching of the Church, using the correct vocabulary where appropriate.

The programme being cross curricular, will not appear as a discrete subject but will be part of the Religious Education, Science, PE, Computing and PSHE curriculum. The programme will extend over all years in the school and at each stage will be attuned to the respective needs and capabilities of the various age ranges.

Resources

The *McCrimmons developmental programme 'A journey in Love'* will provide the main strategies and units of coverage for each year group. Near the time of upper key stage two children being taught any lessons in sex education, parents will be written to and invited to view any materials being used before making a decision as to their child being in those lessons. Those areas of the statutory Relationship and Health Education not covered within this programme are covered through other areas of the curriculum including PHSE and Computing.

Special Educational Needs

Teachers recognise the sensitive nature of this subject and will plan the programme in different ways to meet the individual needs of the children, bearing in mind the age and maturity of the children.

Assessment

Assessment of the subject is mainly through discussion (formal and informal), but other methods of assessment are used by the class teacher, particularly when assessing scientific knowledge.

Monitoring and Review

Family Life, love and relationships education is monitored on an annual basis by the senior leadership team and class teachers. The Governors Teaching and Learning Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents and teachers and modification to the policy is made as necessary. The RE link governor will also be assigned to monitor the love and relationships curriculum.

This Policy is reviewed annually