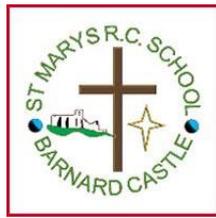


Relationship and Sex Education



A JOURNEY IN LOVE

Introduction

The Department for Education guidance states that from September 2020, all primary schools must teach Relationships and Health Education. The teaching of Sex Education in primary schools remains non-statutory, with the exception of the elements of sex education contained in the science national curriculum including the main external body parts, the human life cycle (including puberty) and reproduction in some plants and animals. Other related topics that fall within the statutory requirements for Health Education, such as puberty and menstrual wellbeing, will be included within PSHE education lessons.

Within the statutory guidance document for RSE and Health Education, the DfE also encourages schools to deliver age-appropriate sex education if they feel their pupils need this information: "It will be for primary schools to determine whether they need to cover any additional content on sex education to meet the needs of their pupils. Many primary schools already choose to teach some aspects of sex education and will continue to do so, although it is not a requirement...."

"It is important that the transition phase before moving to secondary school supports pupils' ongoing emotional and physical development effectively. The Department continues to recommend therefore that all primary schools should have a sex education programme tailored to the age and the physical and emotional maturity of the pupils. It should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings and – drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science - how a baby is conceived and born.

At St Mary's we will be using an approved developmental programme from the Diocese for Catholic Primary Schools called '*A Journey In Love*'

The programme of study is a recommended resource because it is compiled specifically to present a Catholic vision. In each year group, an aspect of love is explored and developed starting from; Early Years to Key Stage Two. Young people are encouraged to marvel at the wonder and beauty of God's creative love reflected in each person under the components: social and emotional, physical and spiritual. Each section has suggested progressive/developmental tasks, activities, reflections and makes cross curricular links to RE, PSHE, Science, Art, Drama, Music and Literacy.

Units and Contents

For each year group across school, from EYFS to Year 6, there are five units of work that connects every aspect of growth: physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual on the theme of love. The key objectives (5 units) of the statutory Relationships Education curriculum are:

- **Families and people who care for me**
- **Caring friendships**
- **Respectful Relationships**
- **Online Relationships**
- **Being Safe**

An overview of the Journey in Love themes are:

Early Years: The wonder of being special and unique

Year One: We meet God's love in our family

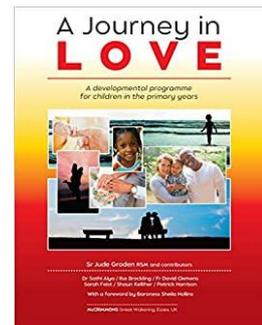
Year Two: We meet God's love in the community

Year Three: How we live in love

Year Four: God loves us in our difference

Year Five: God loves us in our changing and developing

Year Six: The wonder of God's love in creating new life.



Delivering the Units

Each of the year groups will have dedicated sessions across each half term to explore their themes/ units. RSE will be taught by the class teacher. From EYFS all children will start a book of their own called 'A Journey in Love' and as they journey through school their book will go with them. This will give a very clear picture of the developmental programme itself and the awareness and progress each child is also making in RSE.

Sex Education

We teach Sex and Relationship Education because the Book of Genesis teaches us that we are made in the image and likeness of God, male and female. So our gender is part of our identity and is essential to forming healthy relationships with other people. The greatest fulfilment and deepest relations for most people will be within the Sacrament of Marriage, when the complementarity of gender allows us to glimpse our God as Creator. Other relationships, such as those with parents and siblings, are also influenced by our gender, as are friendships and other forms of love. The above, is part of our understanding of God's creation and we respect and worship God by relating to his Creation in the appropriate way according to our age and our commitments to God and one another.

If parents consider that the RSE being taught at St Mary's is not in accordance with the teaching of the church, they should contact Mrs Box, the headteacher. Any concerns parents may have will be listened to and considered/discussed.

Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from sex education sessions. Parents will be informed by the Year 6 teacher prior to the specific sessions and if they would like to withdraw their child then they would need to email the headteacher requesting this.

Sex Education is part of the **Year 6** programme of study (The wonder of God's love in creating new life) and both boys and girls receive the sessions together.

PSHE Links

Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education is an important and necessary part of all pupils' education. St Mary's teach PSHE, drawing on good practice, and this expectation is outlined in the introduction to the proposed new national curriculum from the government.

PSHE is a non-statutory subject but is at the heart of our everyday ethos here at St Mary's. It is who we are as a school in not just teaching academically but to develop every child as a whole; a unique image and likeness of Christ.

To allow teachers the flexibility to deliver high-quality, personal and purposeful PSHE we consider it unnecessary to follow standardised frameworks or programmes of study. PSHE can encompass many areas of study. Teachers are best placed to understand the needs of their pupils and do not need additional central prescription.

We tailor our local PSHE programme to reflect the needs of our pupils, and our community and we use our PSHE education programme to equip pupils with a sound understanding of risk and with the knowledge and skills necessary to make safe and informed decisions.

We work closely with outside agencies such as community police, community nurse, dental nurse, Taylor Shaw to help support with specific content and if and when any issues arise we feel we need further support with.

Working with Parents

As a school we are aware that the primary responsibility for providing children's RSE lies with parents and carers. We recognise the need to work with parents and carers to ensure a shared understanding of RSE and to deliver an effective programme that meets the needs of our pupils.

We seek to use PSHE education to build, where appropriate, on the statutory content already outlined in the national curriculum, the basic school curriculum and in statutory guidance on: drug education, financial education, sex and relationship education (SRE) and the importance of physical activity and diet for a healthy lifestyle.

Other Useful Links

An overview of the DFE links to the Journey in love programme is also available on our school website. I hope you find this useful.

www.catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/relationship-sex-education

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-personal-social-health-and-economic-pshe-and-relationships-and-sex-education-rse/introduction-relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

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