



## Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

**“Shine as to be a light to others”**

**Head Teacher: Mrs C. Dickinson**



### **Relationships, Sex and Health Education Policy**

***School Mission Statement: “Shine as to be a light to others” St John Henry Newman***

#### **Purpose of the Policy**

In this policy, the Governors and teachers, in partnership with pupils and their parents, set out their intentions about relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). We set out our rationale for, and approach to relationships, sex and health education in the school.

#### **Consultation to take place during January – March 2021**

- Pupil focus groups through Pupil Parliament
- Parent and carers given access to the Ten:Ten Life to the Full Programme, parents and carers to complete an online questionnaire about the content and record any worries or concerns they may have.
- Parent / carer focus group to review policy.
- Parent / carer focus group to review curriculum content.
- Review of RSHE curriculum content with staff and pupils
- Consultation with the school nurse and external pastoral support staff.
- Consultation with school trustees and governors

#### **Implementation and Review of Policy**

Implementation of the policy will take place after consultation with the above groups: April 2021

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the Head Teacher, RSHE Co-ordinator, the Governing Body and Staff. The next review date is April 2023.

#### **Dissemination**

The policy will be given to all members of the Governing Body, all teaching and non-teaching members of staff. Copies of the document will be available to all parents through the school’s prospectus and a copy is available in the school office. Details of the content of the RSHE curriculum will also be published on the school’s web site.



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## **Defining Relationship, Health and Sex Education**

The DfE guidance states “children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.” It is about the development of the pupil’s knowledge and understanding about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. At the Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School the focus will be on “teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults.” This would include the topics of families and the people of who care for me, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe.

## **Statutory Curriculum Requirements**

We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSHE which are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science.

However, the reasons for our inclusion of RSHE go further.

## **Rationale**

### **‘I HAVE COME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL’ (Jn.10.10)**

We are involved in relationships and sex education precisely because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person. The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Our approach to RSHE therefore, is rooted in the Catholic Church’s teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals.

At the heart of the Christian life is the Trinity; Father, Son and Spirit in communion, united in loving relationship and embracing all people and all creation. As a consequence of the Christian belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God’s gift, reflect God’s beauty, and share in the divine creativity. RSHE, therefore, will be placed firmly within the context of relationships, as it is there that sexuality grows and develops.

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE (and the Welsh Assembly Government) RSHE will be firmly embedded in the PSHE framework as it is concerned with nurturing human wholeness and integral to the physical, spiritual, emotional, moral, social and intellectual development of pupils. It is centred on Christ’s vision of being human as good news and will be positive and prudent, showing the potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated.



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All RSHE will be in accordance with the Church’s moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from. It will also prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.

## **Values and Virtues**

Our programme enshrines Catholic values relating to the importance of stable relationships, marriage and family life. It also promotes those virtues which are essential in responding to the God’s call to love others with a proper respect for their dignity and the dignity of the human body. The following virtues will be explicitly explored and promoted: faithfulness, fruitfulness, chastity, integrity, prudence, mercy and compassion.

## **Aim of RSHE and the Mission Statement**

Our Mission Statement commits us to the education of the whole child (spiritual, physical, intellectual, moral, social, cultural, emotional) and we believe that RSHE is an integral part of this education.

Furthermore, our school aims state that we will endeavour to raise pupils’ self-esteem, help them to grow in knowledge and understanding, recognise the value of all persons and develop caring and sensitive attitudes. It is in this context that we commit ourselves:

***In partnership with parents and carers, to provide children and young people with a “positive and prudent sexual education” which is compatible with their physical, cognitive, psychological, and spiritual maturity, and rooted in a Catholic vision of education and the human person.***

## **Objectives**

To develop the following **attitudes and virtues**:

- reverence for the gift of human sexuality and fertility;
- respect for the dignity of every human being – in their own person and in the person of others;
- joy in the goodness of the created world and their own bodily natures;
- responsibility for their own actions and a recognition of the impact of these on others;
- recognising and valuing their own sexual identity and that of others;
- celebrating the gift of life-long, self-giving love;
- recognising the importance of marriage and family life;
- fidelity in relationships.

To develop the following **personal and social skills**:

- making sound judgements and good choices which have integrity, and which are respectful of the individual’s commitments;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying;



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- managing emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, with confidence, sensitivity and dignity;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy and compassion, learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building resilience and the ability to resist unwanted pressures, recognising the influence and impact of the media, internet and peer groups and so developing the ability to assess pressures and respond appropriately;
- being patient, delaying gratification and learning to recognise the appropriate stages in the development of relationships, and how to love chastely;
- assessing risks and managing behaviours in order to minimise the risk to health and personal integrity.

## **To know and understand:**

- the Church’s teaching on relationships;
- the Church’s teaching on marriage and the importance of marriage and family life;
- the centrality and importance of virtue in guiding human living and loving;
- the physical and psychological changes that accompany puberty;
- the facts about human reproduction.

## **Outcomes**

### **Inclusion and Differentiation Learning**

We will ensure RSHE is sensitive to the different needs of individual pupils in respect to pupils’ different abilities, levels of maturity and personal circumstances; for example, their own sexual orientation, faith or culture and is taught in a way that does not subject pupils to discrimination. Lessons will also help children to realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, teasing, bullying and aggressive behaviours (including cyber-bullying), use of prejudice-based language and how to respond and ask for help.

### **Equalities Obligations**

The Governing Board have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all of the pupils, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, pregnancy, maternity, sex, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are looked-after children.



## **Broad Content of RSHE**

There are three aspects of RSHE - attitudes and values, knowledge and understanding, and personal and social skills will be provided in three inter-related ways: the whole school ethos; a cross-curricular dimension and a specific relationships and health curriculum.

Our programme will cover...

## **Programme/Resources**

Teaching strategies will include:

- establishing ground rules
- distancing techniques
- discussion
- project learning
- reflection
- experiential
- active
- brainstorming
- film and video
- group work
- role-play
- trigger drawings
- values clarification

## **Assessment**

The Ten:Ten Life to the Full programme of study has an assessment activity associated with each unit of work, these activities will provide evidence that the outcomes of the programme are being achieved.

Each assessment activity will be completed at the beginning of each lesson and completed again at the end of the lesson to assess whether learning has taken place. This assessment is kept in a class RSHE folder as evidence and used to inform planning for the next lesson.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The RSHE Co-ordinator will monitor the provision of the various dimensions of the programme by examining plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils work at regular intervals. The programme will be evaluated biannually by means of questionnaires/response sheets/needs assessment given to pupils, and/or by discussion with pupils, staff and parents. The results of the evaluation will be reported to these groups of interested parties and their suggestions sought for improvements. Governors will consider all such evaluations and suggestions before amending the policy. Governors remain ultimately responsible for the policy.



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## **Parents and Carers**

We recognise that parents (and other carers who stand in their place) are the primary educators of their children. As a Catholic school, we provide the principal means by which the Church assists parents and carers in educating their children. Therefore, the school will support parents and carers by providing material to be shared with their children at home and workshops to help parents/carers to find out more. Parents/carers will be informed by letter when the more sensitive aspects of RSHE will be covered in order that they can be prepared to talk and answer questions about their children's learning.

Parents must be consulted before this policy is ratified by the governors. They will be consulted at every stage of the development of the RSHE programme, as well as during the process of monitoring, review and evaluation. They will be able to view the resources used by the school in the RSHE programme. Our aim is that, at the end of the consultation process, every parent and carer will have full confidence in the school's RSHE programme to meet their child's needs.

Parents have ***the right to withdraw*** their children from Sex Education except in those elements which are required by the National Curriculum science orders. Should parents wish to withdraw their children they are asked to notify the school by contacting the head teacher. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning. Before granting any such request the Head Teacher will discuss the request with parents or carers and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum. A document of the process will be kept.

We believe that the controlled environment of the classroom is the safest place for this curriculum to be followed. The benefits of receiving this important education and any detrimental effects that withdrawal might have on the child will be explained. This could include any social and emotional effects of being excluded, as well as the likelihood of the child hearing their peers' version of what was said in the classes, rather than what was directly said by the teacher, although it is recognised that the effects may be mitigated if the parents or carers propose to deliver sex education to their child at home instead.

## **Balanced Curriculum**

Whilst promoting Catholic values and virtues and teaching in accordance with Church teaching, we will ensure that pupils are offered a balanced programme by providing an RSHE programme that offers a range of viewpoints on issues.

Pupils will also receive clear scientific information as well as covering the aspects of the law pertaining to RSHE. Knowing about facts and enabling young people to explore differing viewpoints is not the same as



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promoting behaviour and is not incompatible with our school’s promotion of Catholic teaching. We will ensure that pupils have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.



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## **Responsibility for Teaching the Programme**

Responsibility for the specific relationships programme lays with the class teachers and leads in normally science, religious education, physical education, RSHE and PSHE.

However, all staff will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspect of the RSHE programme. They will be role models for pupils of good, healthy, wholesome relationships as between staff, other adults and pupils. They will also be contributing to the development of pupils' personal and social skills.

## **External Visitors**

Our school will often call upon help and guidance from outside agencies and health specialists to deliver aspects of RSHE. Such visits will always complement the current programme and never substitute or replace teacher led sessions. It is important that any external visitor is clear about their role and responsibility whilst they are in school delivering a session. Any visitor must adhere to our code of practice developed in line with CES guidance 'Checklist for External Speakers to Schools.'

Health professionals should follow the school's policies, minimising the potential for disclosures or inappropriate comments using negotiated ground rules and distancing techniques as other teachers would. They will ensure that all teaching is rooted in Catholic principles and practice.

## **Other Roles and Responsibilities Regarding RSHE**

### **Governors will**

- draw up the RSHE policy, in consultation with parents, carers and teachers;
- ensure that the policy is available to parents and carers;
- ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies, e.g., SEN, the ethos of the school and our Christian beliefs;
- ensure that parents and carers know of their right to withdraw their children;
- establish a link governor to share in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, including resources used;
- ensure that the curriculum provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum science topics and the setting of RSHE within PSHE.

### **Head Teacher**

The Head Teacher takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, carers, the Diocesan Schools' Service and the Local Education Authority and any appropriate agencies.

### **PSHE/RSHE Co-ordinators**

The co-ordinators, with the Head Teacher, have a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff



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in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RSHE and the provision of in-service training. The co-ordinators will be supported by the Senior Leadership Team and the members of staff with responsibility for child protection.

## **All Staff**

RSHE is a whole school issue. All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress. They should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach RSHE in accordance with the Catholic Ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RSHE. All staff will be included in the development of this policy and all staff will be aware of the policy and how it relates to them.

## **Relationship to Other Policies and Curriculum Subjects**

This RSHE policy is to be delivered as part of the PSHE framework. It includes guidelines about pupil safety and is compatible with the school's other policy documents (e.g. Anti-Bullying Bullying, Online Safety policy and the Safeguarding Policy)

Pupils with particular difficulties whether of a physical or intellectual nature will receive appropriately differentiated support in order to enable them to achieve mature knowledge, understanding and skills. Teaching methods will be adapted to meet the varying needs of this group of pupils.

## **Children's Questions**

Governors and school staff want to promote a healthy, positive atmosphere in which RSHE can take place. They want to ensure that pupils can ask questions freely, be confident that their questions will be answered, and be sure that they will be free from bullying or harassment from other children and young people.

## **Controversial or Sensitive issues**

There will always be sensitive or controversial issues in the field of RSHE. These may be matter of maturity, of personal involvement or experience of children, of disagreement with the official teaching of the Church, of illegal activity or other doubtful, dubious or harmful activity. The governors and school staff believe that children are best educated, protected from harm and exploitation by discussing such issues openly within the context of the RSHE programme. The use of ground rules, negotiated between teachers and pupils, will help to create a supportive climate for discussion.

Some questions may raise issues, which it would not be appropriate for teachers to answer during ordinary class time, e.g., where a child or young person's questions hints at abuse, is deliberately tendentious or is of a personal nature.



## **Supporting Children and Young People Who are at Risk**

Children will also need to feel safe and secure in the environment in which RSHE takes place. Effective RSHE will provide opportunities for discussion of what is and is not appropriate in relationships.

Such discussion may well lead to disclosure of a safeguarding issue. Teachers will need to be aware of the needs of their pupils and not let any fears and worries go unnoticed. Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is a victim of or is at risk of abuse they are required to follow the school's safeguarding policy and immediately inform the designated senior member of staff responsible.

## **Confidentiality and Advice**

All governors, all teachers, all support staff, all parents and all pupils must be made aware of this policy, particularly as it relates to issues of advice and confidentiality.

All lessons, especially those in the RSE programme, will have the best interests of pupils at heart, enabling them to grow in knowledge and understanding of relationships, developing appropriate personal and social skills and becoming appreciative of the values and attitudes which underpin the Christian understanding of what it means to be fully human.

Pupils will be encouraged to talk to their parents/carers about the issues which are discussed in the programme. Teachers will always help pupils facing personal difficulties, in line with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. Teachers will explain to pupils that they cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, in matters which are illegal or abusive for instance. Teachers will explain that in such circumstances they would have to inform others, e.g., parents, carers, head teacher, but that the pupils would always be informed first that such action was going to be taken.

Introduce: December 2020

Implement: April 2021

Review: April 2023



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