

## St Anne's RC Primary and Nursery School Audenshaw

### Policy for Relationships and sex Education

*At St Anne's School, we believe that our purpose is to "Help every person achieve his or her best in work and in play. To celebrate whatever is good and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by supporting and forgiving each other, for the honour and glory of God." (Mission Statement)*

In this policy the Governors and teachers, in partnership with pupils and their parents, set out their intentions about Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

#### **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.

Our 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 RSE, 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.

RSE, therefore, will be placed firmly within the context of relationship as it is there that sexuality grows and develops.

#### **Aims**

Following the guidance of the Bishops of England and Wales and as advocated by the DFE our RSE will be firmly embedded in the Personal, Social and Health Education Framework. 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 in partnership with parents, we will provide our children 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.

#### **Within our Curriculum we aim to teach:**

- nurturing human wholeness as an integral part to the Physical, Spiritual, Emotional, Moral, Social and Intellectual development of all our children.
- Christ's vision of being human as good news
- Positivity
- potential for development, while enabling the dangers and risks involved to be understood and appreciated
- the Church's moral teaching, emphasising the central importance of marriage and the family
- that everyone has a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from and support will be provided to help pupils deal with different sets of values.

## **St Anne's RC Primary and Nursery School Audenshaw**

### **Policy for Relationships and sex Education**

- skills, attitudes and knowledge appropriate to the age, understanding and development to enable all children to make responsible decisions about their relationships, sexual health and well-being
- personal and social skills
- how to make sound judgements and good choices which have integrity and which are respectful of the individual's commitments
- what it is to love and be loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying
- how to manage emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, how to manage this with confidence, sensitivity and dignity
- managing conflict positively and the recognition of the value of difference;
- how to cultivate humility, mercy and compassion, learning to forgive and be forgiven
- the development of self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others
- the building of 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
- patience, delaying gratification and learning to recognise the appropriate stages in the development of relationships, and how to love chastely
- how to assess risks and manage behaviours in order to minimise the risk to health and personal integrity.

#### **Defining Relationships and Sex Education**

The DFE guidance defines RSE as "lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development.

As part of our Mission we wish to provide education and experiences to help our children to understand the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. We believe that in order to provide the very best for our children our teaching should afford opportunities for our children to develop knowledge and understanding of their own self as a sexual being, 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.

#### **Statutory Curriculum Requirements**

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

#### **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.

**Through these we will explore:**

## **St Anne's RC Primary and Nursery School Audenshaw**

### **Policy for Relationships and sex Education**

- 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.

#### **Outcomes**

##### **Our children will know and understand:**

- the Church's teaching on relationships and the nature and meaning of sexual love
- 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, how love is expressed sexually and how sexual love plays an essential and sacred role in procreation

#### **Inclusion and Differentiated Learning**

We will ensure RSE 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. (In looking at these questions, it is important to draw links to the school's Inclusion, Additional Needs and PHSE Policies).

#### **Equalities Obligations**

The Governing Body have wider responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010 and will ensure that our school strives to do the best for all children, irrespective of disability, educational needs, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, gender identity, religion or sexual orientation or whether they are Looked After Children.

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 and sex, 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.

#### **Broad Content of RSE**

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 RSE programme that offers a range of viewpoints on issues.

## St Anne's RC Primary and Nursery School Audenshaw

### Policy for Relationships and sex Education

We will ensure that pupils have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as individuals.

#### **There are three aspects of RSE**

- attitudes and values
- knowledge and understanding and
- personal and social skills

These will be provided in a variety of ways: whole school, cross-curricular (including Science, RE and PHSE) and as a specific relationships and sex curriculum.

#### **Teaching strategies will include:**

- establishing ground rules
- distancing techniques
- discussion

*Please also refer to The Teaching and Learning Policy*

Children 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 all children.

#### **All Staff**

- 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 all children.
- been included in the development of this policy and all staff should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them

Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RSE.

Teachers will be expected to teach RSE in accordance with the Catholic Ethos of the school.

#### **Children's Questions**

The Governors wish to promote a healthy, positive atmosphere in which RSE 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.

The governors believe that children are best educated, protected from harm and exploitation by discussing such issues openly within the context of the RSE programme. The use of ground rules, negotiated between teachers and children, will help to create a supportive climate for discussion.

However, controversial or sensitive issues may arise. These may be matter of maturity or as a result of personal involvement or experience of children.

Some questions may raise issues which it would not be appropriate for teachers to answer during class time. Any concerns here will always be dealt with, involving parents or other agencies as is deemed to be appropriate.

## St Anne's RC Primary and Nursery School Audenshaw

### Policy for Relationships and sex Education

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 safeguarding Lead, which is Mrs Gaffney or Miss Freeley/Mrs Brennan in her absence.

#### 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 RSE will be covered in order that they can attend a showing of the DVD that will be shown to their child in Years 5 and 6 and so that they can be prepared to talk and answer questions about their children's learning.

Children will be encouraged to talk to their parents/carers about the issues which are discussed in the programme.

Teachers will always help children facing personal difficulties, in line with the school's pastoral care policy. Staff should explain to children that they cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, in some instances. (Please see Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy)

*Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RSE 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 Headteacher. The school will provide support by providing material for parents to help the children with their learning.*

*We believe that the controlled environment of the classroom is the safest place for this curriculum to be followed.*

#### External Visitors

Our school will sometimes call upon the help and guidance from outside agencies such as health specialists to deliver aspects of RSE. Such visits will always complement the current programme and never substitute or replace teacher led sessions.

It is important in minimising the potential for disclosures or inappropriate 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 'Protocol for Visitors to Catholic Schools' and an agreed format (including appropriate language) will always be established with the Headteacher prior to the visit.

#### Governors

The Named Governor for RSE is Mrs Abela, who is the Chair of the Curriculum Committee and who will share in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, including resources.

## **St Anne's RC Primary and Nursery School Audenshaw**

### **Policy for Relationships and sex Education**

The Governing Body has drawn up the RSE policy, in consultation with parents and teachers.

#### **The Governing Body will ensure that:**

- the policy is available to parents
- the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies, eg SEN, PHSE, our Catholic ethos and our Christian beliefs
- parents know of their right to withdraw their children
- the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum science topics and the setting of RSE within PSHE.

#### **Headteacher**

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

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

This RSE 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 (Anti-Bullying policy, Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy)

#### **PSHE/RSE**

The PHSE/RSE Subject Lead is Mrs Lear, who, together with Mrs Gaffney has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in the dissemination of the information relating to RSE and the provision of in-service training.

This Policy was agreed after consultation with staff, parents and The Governing Body.

The Curriculum Content was agreed with staff, Governors, The Gift Chaplaincy Team and The School Council after Pupil Voice consultation in November 2016 and February 2017.

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

This Policy was implemented after consultation with the Governors in February 2017.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Head teacher, RSE Subject Manager the Governing Body and Staff.

The next review date will be February 2018.

#### **Dissemination**

The Policy is available to all members of the Governing Body, and all teaching and non-teaching members of staff via the school's "Public Drive".

Copies of the document will be sent to all parents.

Details of the content of the RSE curriculum will be published on the school's web site.

## **St Anne's RC Primary and Nursery School Audenshaw**

### **Policy for Relationships and sex Education**

#### **Confidentiality and Advice**

All Governors staff, parents and children must be made aware of this policy, particularly as it relates to issues of advice and confidentiality.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The RSE Subject Manager 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 should 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.