



SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

Christ is our teacher.

At St Bernard's we believe that all persons are created by God, unique and equal. We strive to create a caring Christian community in which we provide education based on Gospel values where all people reach their full potential. We aim to develop positive relationships with every individual and family, the parishes and the wider community.

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full"

John 10:10

Reviewed by:	L Lee, Vice Principal (Teaching & Learning), September 2019
Reviewed at:	Student Welfare Committee Meeting, 2 nd October 2019
Approved at:	Full Governing Body Meeting, 20 th November 2019
Signed:	Austin Senior, Chair of Governors

INTRODUCTION

This policy is concerned with the development of the student's knowledge and understanding of him/herself as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in a right relationship with oneself, others and the whole of God's creation and being enabled to make moral decisions according to an informed conscience.

In the Catholic School, all sex and relationship guidance must take place within a moral framework as taught by the Roman Catholic Church and within the context of marriage and family life. The Catholic Church recognises, together with the DfES, 'that parents are key figures in helping their children to cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up and preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings'. (DfES Circular 5/94 on Sex Education in Schools).

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Sex and Relationship Education Policy will be:

- to clearly present a Christian, sexual ethic based on the teaching and wisdom of the Church;
- To comply with the requirements of DFE legislation;
- to encourage the development of a personal, moral code rooted in Gospel Values and to promote self confidence and self esteem;
- to consider personal attitudes, make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions according to an informed conscience about the attitudes they will adopt both in school and adult life;
- to encourage student growth in self respect, dignity, self restraint and respect for others acknowledging that all are created in the image and likeness of God;
- to help students develop an understanding that love is central to the basis of relationships and family life;
- to encourage students to reflect on their own relationships in order to develop an understanding of themselves, their sexuality and that of others so that their attitudes associated with sexual activity are caring and responsible;
- to ensure that students appreciate the benefits of stable married life and the responsibilities of parenthood;
- to help students recognise the physical, emotional and moral risks of casual and promiscuous sexual behaviour;
- to present fact in an objective and balanced manner and to use appropriate terminology to enable students to discuss issues without embarrassment or fear of ridicule;
- to develop an awareness of an individual's legal obligation regarding sexual behaviour.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Governors

- Governors will keep up to date the school's policy for sex and relationship education and will make copies of the policy available to parents.
- Governors will make known to parents their right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationships education provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum. Any parent wishing to exercise that right should initially contact the Principal to discuss the matter. How provision will be made for their children will be negotiated on an individual basis, dependent on the needs of each child.

(b) Teachers

- Teachers will be expected to teach sex and relationships education in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school and reflected in a variety of schemes of work.
- Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching sex and relationship education.
- Teachers will be aware that effective sex and relationships education, which brings an understanding of what is and what is not acceptable in a relationship, can lead to disclosure of a child protection issue which will be dealt with as stated in our Safeguarding policy.

(c) Students

- Students will be expected to listen to the teaching of the Church and become aware of a variety of other views regarding moral issues related to sex and relationship education.
- They will be expected to have a concern for, and accept responsibility for, his/her knowledge and understanding of his/her sexual development.
- They will understand and recognise the rights of those of differing sexual persuasion.

(d) The Wider Community

- The school will make appropriate use of external agencies and their personnel as appropriate.
- All staff from external agencies will be asked to adhere to the Catholic ethos of the school.

(e) Parents

- Recognising that parents are the primary educators of their children the school will seek to support them in this task.
- Governors will ensure that parents are kept informed of what is happening in sex and relationship education, and of our expectations of their children.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Evaluation and monitoring will take place on a regular basis by the Senior Leadership Team and Pastoral Leaders.