

ST PETER'S RC HIGH SCHOOL

SEX AND RELATIONSHIP POLICY

January 2018

Mission Statement

St Peter's RC High School is a community founded on mutual love and care for the individual in which the Faith of the Church underpins all our activities. Christ is our model in striving for excellence in all that we do and in valuing the unique contribution and gift of every member of our school community. St Peter's is committed to working with home and parish to enable all pupils to succeed in life.

Achievement



Responsibility



Love



Diversity

The Church has clear and well defined principles for relationships between sexes. As a Catholic school, St Peter’s must remain true to the church’s teachings on such matters. It will therefore incorporate appropriate and authentic teaching on matters of human love and God’s creative love as embodied in human reproduction. Teachers are asked to answer questions in accordance with the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, taking care especially in the case of younger children, that answers do not give rise to confusion or anxiety. All children will be encouraged to refer to their parents for further information and, should it be thought necessary by the Headteacher, parents may be contacted.

It is our Christian duty to help children to mature into responsible young adults. We feel that those who have been helped to build their self esteem and those who are happy with an image built around Gospel values are able to take increasing control of their lives, including lifestyles.

This policy is essentially a starting point whereby parents and teachers will have an understanding of the importance of sex and relationships education at St Peter’s

Management

The organisation and management structures of St Peter’s will do much to encourage the development of self-confidence and self-esteem.

The pastoral system will support personal development, as well as being a mechanism for responding to crises or misdemeanours.

Growth and Development of the Whole Person

Central to the mission of St Peter’s is the growth and development of the whole person. We will aim to assist our young people in their growth towards Christian maturity through intellectual, spiritual, moral, emotional and physical development.

This framework will be built around the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Parental Involvement

The staff and governors at St Peter's recognise that Sex Education is the privilege of parents. We also recognise that due to the difficulties which such an education encounters, parents need a major commitment on the behalf of the Christian community and call on the school to collaborate on this.

We are also aware that the pupil's experience of relationships has a significant influence in their understanding of a range of relationships not experienced within the family. Parents / carers may not be involved in all their children's relationships nor be aware of them.

If matters of concern arise, parents / carers will be informed and invited into school to discuss the matter with a senior member of staff.

Pupil Support

The pupils will be afforded the opportunity of reflecting on these relationships and developing the skills necessary for handling them.

The support that St Peter's will offer will largely take the form of:

- providing settings in which young people can more easily reflect on their relationships
- providing opportunities for young people to share common interest and learn from each other
- providing insights which are not provided by the parents of every child

In developing our programme we will endeavour to ensure that our young people are given positive guidance and a true appreciation of their human gifts.

National Curriculum

There will be opportunities, from time to time, within all school subjects to deal with matters related to human dignity and personal sexuality. In addition, within science the national curriculum addresses biological aspects of human sexual behaviour.

The school's sex education programme will ensure that our young people are given positive guidance and a true appreciation of their human gifts in accordance with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

In resourcing Sex Education at St Peter's, we will consider the following criteria:

- resources should accord with the moral teaching of the Roman Catholic Church
- resources should affirm the value of family life
- facts given should be accurate
- materials should be appropriate to the group concerned, e.g. language
- teachers will receive necessary training and guidance so as to be familiar and comfortable with every aspect of the resource in use
- parents and governors will be aware of the material in use and happy about its use
- involvement of the school nurse.