



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Sex and Relationships (SRE) Policy

Philosophy

The inclusion of positive, person centred education is at the heart of Catholic Christian education. This education is basically about the development, growth and journey of the whole person towards becoming 'fully human, fully alive' as a unique creation made in God's image, and about being enabled to make moral decisions according to informed conscience. Education in Sexuality and Relationships is of paramount importance in our Catholic school, more than ever do the young people in our case need help and guidance in their struggle to live out their lives as members of the Christian family.

We base SRE on the criteria of our school mission statement in that we provide a caring atmosphere in which the content can be sensitively and practically delivered.

SRE is a 'lifelong process' about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life and loving relationships, respect, love and care. We recognize that parents are the best people to educate their children and school will support parents in their delivery of SRE at home.

Aims of SRE

- to help and support our young people through their physical, emotional and moral development, from childhood, through adolescence to adulthood
- to understand the reproduction process in humans using the correct vocabulary
- learn to manage relationships confidently and sensitively
- develop understanding of peer pressure, decision making, choices and consequences
- to provide a safe, secure environment for children to discuss issues or concerns
- to develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions, judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want
- to ensure that our pupils neither exploit, nor are exploited
- to ensure that all issues are addressed within the Catholic teaching and framework

Organisation

SRE will be delivered primarily through Science, Religious Education and Complementary Studies during SMSC days. During these days teachers will deliver key elements; Science staff and Health workers are also involved.

Key Stage 3

The key elements of SRE will address each pupil's knowledge, skills, attitude and values. Listed below are some of the aspects of the scheme.

- health and well being
- puberty
- healthy choices
- images
- media attitudes
- choices
- reproduction

- STI's
- peer pressure
- mental health

Key Stage 4

- health and personal safety
- mental health
- emotional well being
- review of reproductive system
- relationships/marriage
- contraception
- sexuality
- promiscuity
- drugs/alcohol

Teaching and Learning

Teachers will ensure that all material/topics are age appropriate and that a good classroom environment supports issues being taught or discussed. Teaching may be formal or informal depending on the topic but at all times good practice will be followed by the teacher or other professional leading the session.

At Holy Cross we believe it is essential to help our pupils to develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about sex and relationships. We will continue to build and develop our partnerships with parents as we believe this is the key to success.

- establish ground rules – the teacher in discussion with their group will establish and write on the board the ground rules, **examples** no-one will have to answer a personal question, no-one will be forced to take part in a discussion
- distancing techniques
 - discussion will be depersonalized, role play may be used to 'act out situations', appropriate videos used and case studies with invented characters to help pupils discuss sensitive issues and develop their decision-making skills in a safe environment
- dealing with questions
 - if a question is too personal the teacher will remind the pupil of the ground rules. If the pupil needs further support he/she will be referred to the School Counsellor, School Nurse, outside agency, etc.
if a question is too explicit the teacher will acknowledge it and promise to attend to it later on an individual basis
- reflection
 - is crucial for learning, it encourages pupils to consolidate what they have learned and to form new understanding, skills and attitudes. Teachers will ensure that reflection takes place after each input

Use of Visitors

Delivery of SRE is not the sole responsibility of our school and we will work in partnership with the wider community and parents. All visitors to school including health professionals, parents, youth workers will abide by the School's policy including address issues within the guidance of Catholic teaching and will have a teacher present at all times when they are working with groups of young people.

Child Protection

Children cannot learn effectively if they are concerned or frightened about an issue. They have a right to expect school to provide a safe and secure environment. Teachers will be aware that effective SRE, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, can lead to disclosure of a child protection issue. Teachers will not let a child's fears or worries brought into the classroom go un-noticed. All staff will be aware of signs of abuse and will report their concerns to the DSC Paul Morris or Deputy DSC Michelle Hardman.

SEN Provision

We will ensure that all young people receive SRE and we will offer provision appropriate to a child's needs, taking specialist advice where necessary.

Dealing with Sensitive Issues

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality. In a case where a teacher is concerned about a pupil's welfare they will inform the teacher responsible for Child Protection. Pupils in such a case will be offered counselling and if decreed appropriate the young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to parent/carer and if necessary to seek medical advice.

Parental Involvement

We recognise that parents are the best people to educate their children and school will support parents in supporting them to move their children from childhood to adolescence. Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from all or any part of the school's SRE programme, except those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science orders. We ask that any parent who may be considering the exercise of this right, should contact school to make an appointment with the Headteacher. Parents will be informed when sensitive viewing material will be used.

Monitoring SRE

It is the responsibility of Mr P Morris, Assistant Head (Guidance) and Mr Stephen Sands, School Governor, to oversee the monitoring of the Sex and Relationships Education policy. The school has procedures for monitoring and evaluating all curriculum areas regularly and systematically by the relevant subject coordinators. SRE will be monitored as part of this process in the curriculum as it is delivered.

Evaluating the Programme

Students will be consulted as to their view of the content, delivery and use of the programme at least bi-annually. Evidence of pupil development will be looked at. Ofsted are required to evaluate and report on the SRE policy, including advice on support, staff, development training and delivery.

To be reviewed summer 2019