

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

'Learning Together in Faith and Love'

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Policy

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Mission Statement

St Mary's is a vibrant two form entry Catholic Primary School in North Kensington with a strong sense of community. We are a school that welcomes all children from the ages of 3 to 11 years. Our school serves the Roman Catholic Parish of Our Lady of the Holy Souls, Kensal New Town and other local parishes.

The aims of our school are:

- To promote Christian values where children live, learn and celebrate the teaching of Christ.
- To provide a curriculum which is broad, balanced and meaningful and where children can experience enjoyment and fulfilment.
- To promote the highest standards of teaching and learning within the framework of the National Curriculum.
- To develop in each child a sense of achievement, value and self-worth and to achieve the standards of which they are capable.
- To help our children acquire the skills of independent learning and make sufficiently rapid progress.
- To provide a safe and secure environment where children feel valued and where they respect help and care for each other.
- To involve parents in all aspects of their child's education and promote good home/school partnerships.
- To develop in our children awareness and respect for the different cultures and religions represented in society and their responsibility to the wider community.
- To foster the continuing development of staff, parents and Governors in serving the community.

St Mary's School Values

These are the values which will be explicitly taught, modelled and rewarded at St Mary's:

- **Kindness**
- **Respect**
- **Tolerance**
- **Honesty**
- **Responsibility (for ourselves and our world)**
- **Co-operation**

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Introduction

St Mary's Catholic Primary School follows a developmental programme for children in primary years entitled 'Journey in Love'.

This programme has "as its foundational premise the belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God and, as a consequence, gender and sexuality are God's gift, reflect God's beauty and share in the divine creativity.

In order that children may grow and develop healthily and holistically towards an understanding of their gender and its implications for successful relationships, they must be at ease with themselves and grow in self-knowledge.

An aspect of the mystery of love is treated in each year group; children and young people are encouraged to marvel at the wonder and beauty of God's creative love. This is reflected in each stage of a person's growth in the Primary years through a series of suggested, progressive and developmental tasks, activities and reflections which focus on physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development."

Sr Jude Groden RSM
Primary R.E. Adviser

Methodology

We intend that the school's SRE policy and programme will be delivered in conjunction with the school's Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) teaching and Religious Education programme.

Aspects of SRE will also be covered as part of the statutory element of Science in the '2014 Primary National Curriculum in England'.

Learning Objectives by Year Group

Year group	Learning objectives
Nursery	Children begin to know and understand that they are part of the wonder of God's love and creation.
Reception	Children know and understand that God has made them unique and that although we are all different we are all special to him.
Year 1	Children know and understand that they are growing and developing as members of their own family and God's family.
Year 2	Children know and understand that they are growing and developing in a God-given community.
Year 3	Children know and understand the virtues essential to friendship, e.g. loyalty, responsibility ⁶ and experience the importance both of forgiving and being forgiven and of celebrating God's forgiveness.
Year 4	Children know and understand that they are all different and celebrate these differences as they appreciate that God's love accepts us as we are and as we change.
Year 5	Children know and become aware of the physical and emotional changes that accompany puberty – sensitivity, mood swings, anger, boredom, etc. and grow further in their understanding of God's presence in their daily lives.
Year 6	Children develop in an appropriate way for their age, an understanding of sexuality and grow further in their appreciation of their dignity and worth as children of God.

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Working with Parents

Prior to delivering sex and relationship education, as part of the 'Journey in Love' programme, meetings will be held with parent/carers to discuss the programme's content. This will give parents/carers the opportunity to ask questions and address any concerns which they may have. Parents the right to withdraw their child from any or all of the schools Sex Education programme although certain elements are covered under the Science National Curriculum which is the entitlement of all children. The school recognises that good communication is vital in this area and parents are invited to review the school's policy and ideally view all the materials used beforehand.

Dealing with sensitive issues and responding to questions

Teachers will answer questions according to the teaching of the Catholic Church and with due regard to the nature of the question and the age and maturity of the child asking the question. In some cases, it may be inappropriate for the teacher to respond to a specific question and the pupil will be referred to his\her parents. In the same way not all questions will be answered publicly and the teacher will need to assess the appropriateness of the question to consider if it matches the maturity and understanding of the whole class group. Teachers should never feel pressured into discussing their personal views or experiences and should always respect the sensitivity of their position as a teacher in a Catholic school.

Legislation

The most up to date legislation relating to sex and relationships education (SRE) are contained within the Education Act (1996) and the Learning and Skills Act (2000). The requirements are that:

- It is compulsory for all maintained schools to teach some parts of reproduction i.e. describe the life process of reproduction in some plant and animals. This is a statutory part of the National Curriculum Science which must be taught to all pupils of primary.
- Primary schools are legally obliged to have an up-to-date SRE policy that describes the content and organisation of SRE taught outside the Science Curriculum. In primary schools if the decision is taken not to teach SRE outside the Science Curriculum this should also be documented in the policy.

In the best interest of our children, St Mary's have taken the decision to teach SRE outside the Science Curriculum in line with Catholic teachings.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governors

The governing body will keep up to date the school's policy for SRE, in consultation with parents and will make copies available to them. They will make known to parents their right to withdraw their children from all or part of SRE provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum.

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Teachers

All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress; they should actively contribute to the guidance of the physical, moral spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach SRE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school.

Parents

The school recognises that parents are the prime educators of their children and will seek to support them in their task. It will ensure that parents are kept informed of what is happening in SRE in terms of content, delivery and timing.

Programme

A Journey in Love is a developmental programme for children in the primary years. Monitoring and Evaluation the Headteacher will monitor provision of SRE in the school.

Reviewing of Policy

This policy will be reviewed on a biannual basis. Any changes will be discussed with parents before implementation.