

### **'I HAVE COME THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL' (John 10.10)**

Positive and prudent relationships and sex education forms an essential part of any genuinely Catholic education today - reflecting the positive Christian view of human sexuality which is set firmly within the context of personal and family relationships. As such, appropriate relationships and sex education respects the growing self-awareness of our students and their developing moral autonomy, whilst allowing them to discover the pathway to God.

Our Mission Statement and policy on spiritual and moral development already sets out our clear aims as being to help students to develop:

*Salesian College is a Catholic school that seeks to appreciate and develop the talents and skills of each individual. Inspired by the life of Christ and his teaching, and the work of Don Bosco, we endeavour in active partnership with home, church and wider community, to prepare our students to face the future with confidence and take up the challenge of the Gospel.*

We affirm that human sexuality is an essential dimension of personal identity as it forms a fundamental part of God's gift of life through continuing creation, and reflects his own self-giving nature. "In his own image he made them; male and female he made them." (Genesis 1.26-27). We seek to offer a profound understanding of the joy and depth of human sexual relationships: "God saw all that he had made and found it very good." (Genesis 1.31).

As a Catholic community we believe that the most effective context for relationships and sex education is found within the partnership of family, school and church and that this requires an atmosphere of honesty, openness, warmth and trust between parents and staff, as well as between staff and students.

The objective of RSE is to help support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. A successful programme firmly embedded in PSHE Education, will help young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood. 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. Knowing about facts and enabling young people to explore differing viewpoints is not the same as promoting behaviour and is not incompatible with our school's promotion of Catholic teaching.

## ORGANISATION OF RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

The following curriculum areas and the Ethos Committee of the Governing body are involved in the planning and delivery of relationships and sex education:

PSHE  
THE RE DEPARTMENT  
THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

## AIMS

The school's programme encompasses the following:

- *Appreciate the dignity and worth of each person.*
- *The central role of the family in society.*
- *Sexuality as a sacred gift of God.*
- *The importance of marital fidelity.*

## OBJECTIVES

To develop the following attitudes and virtues:

- 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;
- 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.

To develop the following personal and social skills:

- making well informed judgements and good choices which have integrity and which are respectful of the individual;
- loving and being loved, and the ability to form friendships and loving, stable relationships free from exploitation, abuse and bullying;
- managing emotions within relationships, and when relationships break down, with confidence, sensitivity and dignity;
- managing conflict positively, recognising the value of difference;
- cultivating humility, mercy and compassion, learning to forgive and be forgiven;
- developing self-esteem and confidence, demonstrating self-respect and empathy for others;
- building 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;
- being patient, delaying gratification and learning to recognise the appropriate stages in the development of relationships and how to love respectfully;
- assessing risks and managing behaviours in order to minimise the risk to health and personal integrity;
- discourage all forms of prejudice or discrimination on the grounds of gender or sexual orientation;
- encouraging discussion and debate so that fears and misconceptions may be clarified;
- develop an awareness of an individual's legal obligation regarding sexual behaviour.

To know and understand:

- the Catholic Church's teaching on relationships and the nature and meaning of sexual love;
- the Catholic 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;
- how to manage fertility in a way which is compatible with their stage of life, their own values and commitments, including an understanding of the difference between natural family planning and artificial contraception;
- how to keep themselves safe from sexually transmitted infections and how to avoid unintended pregnancy, including where to go for advice.
- their rights, responsibilities and opportunities online as well as the risks and impact of viewing and sharing online content

## CONFIDENTIALITY AND CHILD PROTECTION

Pupils are offered sensitive and appropriate advice and made aware that some information cannot be held confidential and if certain disclosures are made certain actions will follow in line with Safeguarding Children & Child Protection Policies.

If abuse is highlighted or suspected by a disclosure, then the Safeguarding Children/Child Protection procedures will be involved.

The College will ensure that all involved in the delivery of RSE are familiar with their legal, diocesan and professional responsibilities.

## LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

Our RSE programme is an integral part of our whole school PSHE education provision and as such this policy must be viewed in conjunction with the PSHE Education policy.

In developing the RSE policy we have also taken account of our existing policies on:

- Safeguarding Children & Child Protection
- Anti-Bullying
- Mental Health and Wellbeing policy

## LINKS TO OTHER GUIDANCE

Key documents that inform the College RSE policy include:

- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory Guidance
- Education Act
- Learning and Skills Act
- Education and Inspections Act
- Equality Act
- Supplementary Guidance SRE for the 21st century
- Keeping children safe in education – Statutory safeguarding guidance
- Children and Social Work Act
- Catholic Education Service guidance

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This policy is:

Monitored and evaluated annually by the PSHE Education Coordinator/Heads of Year/Head of Religious Education/Head of Biology.  
 Informed by student voice and parental consultation.  
 Formally reviewed as part of the Governing Body's rolling programme of policy scrutiny.

<b>POLICY CONTROL</b>	
<i>Author</i>	<i>Assistant Head (Pastoral) / Head of RE</i>
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