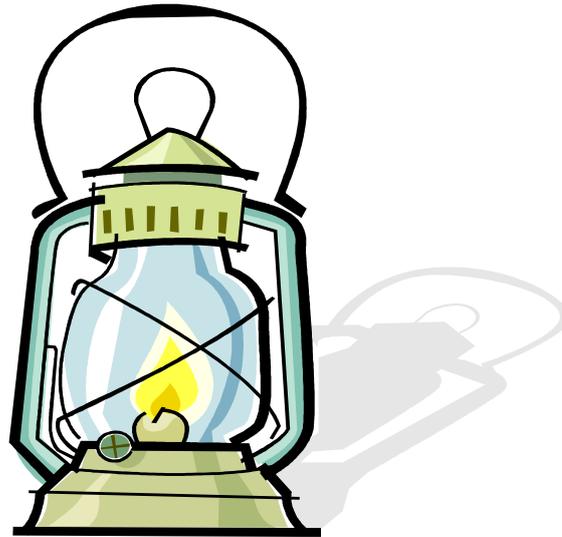




# ***SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION (SRE) POLICY***



Autumn 2018



*“Shine like a lantern in the presence of the Lord.”*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

St Bede's Catholic Primary School and Nursery 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.

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

At St. Bede's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, we aim for our school's RSE policy and programme to be delivered in conjunction with the school's Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) teaching (Jigsaw) and our Religious Education programme (Come and See). Certain aspects of RSE 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**

### **Nursery**

In Nursery, the children learn and look at the Wonder of God's Love. Through this focus they will begin to know and understand that they are part of the wonder of God's love and creation.

### **Reception**

In Reception, the children learn about God loving each of us in our uniqueness. The children will know and understand that God has made them unique and that although we are all different, we are special to him.

### **Year 1**

In Year One, the children learn about meeting God's love in our family. The children know and understand that they are growing and developing as members of their own family and God's family.

### **Year 2**

In Year Two, the children learn about meeting God's love in the community. The children will know and understand that they are growing and developing in a God-given community.

### **Year 3**

In Year Three, the children learn about how we live in love. The children will know and understand the virtues essential to friendship, e.g. loyalty, responsibility etc. and experience the importance both of forgiving and being forgiven and of celebrating God's forgiveness.

### **Year 4**

In Year 4, the children learn about how God loves us in our differences. The children will 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**

In Year Four, the children learn about God loving them in their changing and development. The children will 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**

In Year Six, the children learn about the wonder of God's love in creating new life. The 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.

### **SAFEGUARDING**

When teaching any part of the RSE programme or any sensitive issues, children who may give cause for concern or who are believed to be at risk are reported immediately to the school's designated Safeguarding Leads and safeguarding procedures are closely followed. See the Safeguarding Policy.

### **CPD**

Staff training needs are consulted annually and the Lead Teacher for RE ensures that training needs are met. Resources and training is accessed as and when necessary in order to ensure staff are confident and skilled to teach the RSE curriculum effectively and that resources are of a high quality. The school seeks guidance, resources and CPF from the Diocese and regularly attend training sessions offered.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Relationship and sex education requires sensitive teaching which is matched in particular by the specific needs and concerns of children. Class teachers use their professional judgement when addressing issues in relationship and sex education and careful consideration is given to the inevitable wide and varied experience and backgrounds of the children in the class. All class teachers involved in relationship and sex education are required to be sensitive, credible and consistent. The school will ensure that all staff are familiar with their legal and professional responsibilities.

### **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 fully discuss the programme's content for Year 5 and 6. This will give parents/carers the opportunity to ask any questions and address any concerns which they may have. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from any or all of the school's Sex Education programme although certain elements are covered under the Science National Curriculum which is the entitlement of all children. St. Bede's Catholic Primary School and Nursery recognises that good communication is vital in this area and our parents are invited to review the school's policy and view all the materials used – by the class teachers – prior to any teaching taking place.

### **DEALING WITH SENSITIVE ISSUES AND RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS**

At St. Bede's Catholic Primary School and Nursery all our class 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 class 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. Class teachers will never discuss their personal views or experiences and will always respect the sensitivity of their position as a teacher in a Catholic school.

### **LEGISLATION**

St. Bede's Catholic Primary School and Nursery's policy on sex and relationship education is based on the DfES document Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (DfES 0116/2000) and The Archdiocese of Westminster guidance on Education for Personal Relationships. The most up to date legislation relating to Sex and Relationships Education (RSE) 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 for Science which must be taught to all primary school pupils. Primary schools are legally obliged to have an up-to-date RSE policy that describes the content and organisation of RSE taught outside the Science Curriculum. In primary schools if the decision is taken not to teach RSE outside the Science Curriculum this should also be documented in the policy.

In the best interest of our children, St. Bede's Catholic Primary School and Nursery has taken the decision to teach RSE 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 RSE, 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 RSE provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum. The Governing body and Foundation Governors in particular recognise their responsibility to ensure the relationship and sex education curriculum reflects the church's teaching.

### **Class 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 RSE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school.

### **Parents**

St. Bede's Catholic Primary School and Nursery 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 RSE 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 Head teacher and Head of RE / PSHE will monitor provision of RSE in the school.

## **REVIEWING OF POLICY**

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.