



St Bede's

Roman Catholic High School

**RELATIONSHIP AND SEX
EDUCATION POLICY
2020/2021**

Contents

1. Mission and aims:	2
2. Statutory requirements:	3
3. Content and Delivery:	4
4. Roles and responsibilities:	5
5. Monitoring arrangements:	5
6. Links with other policies:	6

1. Mission and aims:

Mission Statement:

The mission of St Bede’s RC High School includes the requirement to guide and inspire each member of the school community so that everyone involved can reach their full potential in the light of the teachings of Christ and the values portrayed in the Gospels.

School aims:

- To develop in pupil’s a knowledge of the Catholic faith and a respect for the spiritual and moral values intrinsic to it.
- To prepare pupils for adult life and for productive roles at work, in the community, at home and at leisure.
- To provide pupils with the knowledge to keep themselves fit and healthy.

The school recognises the importance that RSHE can play in contributing to the development of healthy young people and this policy is designed to ensure that our pupils have access to all the teaching and resources that are required to enable them to make prudent judgements about sex and relationships.

For the State, “The objective of RSHE is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. A successful programme, firmly embedded in PSHE, will help young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood through adolescence into adulthood.” (DfEE document, p.3, para.2)

At the Second Vatican Council the Bishops were more specific and asked that, young people should be trained to acquire gradually a more perfect sense of responsibility in the proper development of their own lives by constant effort and in the pursuit of liberty... As they grow older, they should receive a positive and prudent sex education.” (Gravissimum Educationis, para.1)

Our approach to RSHE will be a “positive” one that acknowledges that sexuality was part of God’s creation.

Our approach will also be a “prudent”. A prudent RSHE is designed to empower our pupils to make good decisions. This can only be done when it is based on accurate knowledge, and set in a framework that acknowledges the fundamental goodness of all of God’s creation.

The aim, therefore, of a “positive and prudent” education in sexuality is to make real and to celebrate the beauty of God’s creation and to enable pupils to make good decisions about their sexuality. This education will always be done in the context of the living tradition of Church teaching with the following objectives:

- to present clearly a Christian, sexual ethic based on the teaching and wisdom of the Church.
- to encourage the development of a personal, moral code rooted in Gospel Values and to promote self-confidence and self-esteem.
- to encourage pupils to make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions according to an informed conscience about the attitudes they will adopt both in school and adult life.
- to encourage pupil to develop self-respect, dignity, self-restraint and respect for others acknowledging that all persons are created in the image and likeness of God.
- to help pupils develop an understanding that love is central to the basis of relationships and family life.
- to encourage pupils to reflect on their own relationships in order to develop an understanding of themselves, their sexuality and that of others so that their attitudes in relation to sexual activity are caring and responsible.
- to ensure that pupils appreciate the benefits of stable married life and the responsibilities of parenthood.
- to help pupils recognise the physical, emotional and moral risks of casual and promiscuous sexual behaviour.
- to present biological facts in an objective and balanced manner and to use appropriate terminology to enable pupils to discuss issues without embarrassment or fear of ridicule.
- to develop an awareness of an individual's legal responsibilities in relation to sexual behaviour.
- to ensure other models of family and relationships are recognised and understood.

2. Statutory requirements:

As a maintained secondary school we must provide RSHE to all pupils as per the [Children and Social work act 2017](#). In teaching RSHE, we must have regard to to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the

[Education Act 1996](#). We are legally required to teach those aspects of RSHE which are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science. (There is also a separate requirement for maintained secondary schools to teach about HIV, AIDS and sexually transmitted infections.

Furthermore, in support of the School's Catholic ethos, the guidance and advice has been followed through the Catholic Education Service (CES).

3. Content and Delivery:

RSHE will be delivered through the PSHE curriculum twice weekly during designated Prep time provision across both key stages. Wherever necessary through assemblies and dedicated timetabled lessons, specialist external provision will enhance learning to provide students with the most up to date and relevant education. All external providers will be aware of their role and the requirement to be sympathetic to and promote the Catholic ethos of the school.

The RSHE curriculum is based on three core themes within which there will be a broad overlap and is adaptable to the age and ability of the pupils. The three themes are:

- Created and loved by God (this explores the individual) The Christian imperative to love self, made in the image and likeness of God, shows an understanding of the importance of valuing and understanding oneself as the basis for personal relationships.
- Created to love others (this explores an individual's relationships with others) God is love. We are created out of love and for love. The command to love is the basis of all Christian morality.
- Created to live in community - local, national & global (this explores the individual's relationships with the wider world) Human beings are relational by nature and live in the wider community. Through our exchange with others, our mutual service and through dialogue, we attempt to proclaim and extend the Kingdom of God for the good of individuals and the good of society.

Whilst promoting Catholic virtues, as a school we will ensure that all students are offered a broad and balanced RSHE programme which provides them with clear factual, scientific information when relevant and meets the statutory requirements placed on schools. In secondary schools this includes teaching students about the laws relating to forced marriage, female genital mutilation, abortion and equalities legislation (including the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013).

To ensure equality of access and opportunity can take place, all students, including SEND students, will be considered in the delivery of materials.

Differentiation and appropriateness of content will be informed by teachers delivering the curriculum based on EHCPs, prior assessment and guidance from the SENCO.

4. Roles and responsibilities:

a) Governors

The governing board will hold the Headteacher to account for the implementation of this policy.

Teachers

Responsibility for the specific RSHE programme is with the PSHE Lead. All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well-being of their pupils. Teachers will be expected to teach RSHE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RSHE. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that PSHE is taught consistently across the School, through appropriate line management of key staff, and for managing requests to withdraw students from non-statutory/non-science components of RSHE.

b) Pupils

Pupils should be willing to listen to the teaching of the Church whilst being aware that a variety of other views exist. They will be expected to have a concern for, and accept responsibility for, his/her knowledge and understanding of his/her development.

c) Parents

Recognising that parents are the primary educators of their children, the school will seek to support them in this task. We will ensure that parents are kept informed of PSHE, and in particular, RSHE, within St Bede's, and of our expectations of their children.

5. Monitoring arrangements:

It is expected that RSHE, embedded within the PSHE curriculum, achieves parity of status in the quality of pupils' work and engagement, as compared to other curriculum areas. Consequently, staff will: plan, deliver and assess work in accordance with the Teaching and Learning Policy. Staff will be expected to assess and feedback against a given set of criteria, contributing to the learning cycle as specified in the whole school assessment policy. This will be monitored and evaluated by the PSHE lead as per the school assessment calendar. Other methods of quality assurance will be employed such as: Learning Walks, Book reviews and Student Voice.

6. Links with other policies and documents:

- Teaching and Learning policy
- Whole school assessment policy
- PSHE policy
- SEN & Inclusion policy
- CES - Model Catholic relationship and sex education curriculum for secondary schools.
- School Assessment calendar
- Children and Social work act 2017
- Education act 1996