

St. John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School

Sex Education Policy

This policy is the Governing Body of St. John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School's response to the 1993 Education Act and the Portsmouth Diocese's requirement to have a statement on Sex Education.

The policy reflects the values and beliefs of the school's Mission Statement.

"Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourselves, but to God: He bought you for a price, so use your bodies for God's glory."

Corinthians 1 Ch.6 v.19-20

Rationale

We believe that each one of us is a unique individual created by God with a responsibility to contribute positively to His world.

St. John's School is a community based on positive relationships where all are valued and held in high esteem. Within such a caring environment, we aim to provide a sex education programme that will give pupils accurate knowledge of their own sexuality and the process of reproduction, at the same time, developing the skills to manage their own emotions and relations with others. We acknowledge that pupils will have absorbed information and attitudes about their sexuality from parents, peers and the media. The programme will acknowledge and include this information and set the whole within the context of Catholic values and teaching.

Aims

- To enable the pupil to understand the changes that occurs to their bodies over a period of time.
- To enable the pupil to understand the changes that occur to their feelings and emotions over a period of time.
- To enable the pupil to be confident and articulate at a time of change by providing them with accurate knowledge set in the context of Christian (Catholic) values.
- To emphasise value and respect for their own changing bodies and for those of others.
- To create opportunities for discussion and exploration of the pupil's perceptions of relationships and moral choices in a secure, supportive environment.
- To value pupils' spontaneous questions about sexuality and relationships, positively, and to respond openly and appropriately to them.

- To enable the pupils to care for themselves and make informed decisions about their lifestyle.

Guidelines

- Sex education will not take place in isolation, but within the broader curriculum, particularly science, R.E. and other elements of the Health Education programmes, Getting It Right and Childsafe (Yr.6) programmes.
- Specific sex education teaching and skill development has been assigned to parts of science topics each year. Reference should be made to the accompanying grid, where specific content of the Sex Education course is assigned to Key Stages 1 & 2, years R - 6. Specific teaching will be supported by skill and attitude development within the broader Health Education programme and the 4 year, cyclical R.E. programme, Here I Am.
- Partnership with parents is extremely important. They will be kept informed of the contents of the programme and encouraged to collaborate with the school in developing sound values in this vital area of development for their children.
- The expertise of the Health Promotion nurses will be used in Years 5 and 6 when it is appropriate to use the knowledge of health professionals (who have been informed of and appreciate the teachings of the Catholic faith).
- Some parts of the sex education programme will be delivered to boys and girls, separately, in Years 5 and 6.
- English, as an additional language will not be seen as a difficulty in participation.
- Parents have a legal right to withdraw their children from the sex education programmes, but it is hoped that well-informed parents will support, and feel supported by, the programme.

A. O'Neill
June 2005