



Saint Pius X Catholic High School

HEALTH, SEX & RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY

MAY 2011

Our Mission Statement:

"Saint Pius X Catholic High School is a Catholic School in which the Gospel message of the Kingdom of God is revealed through our work and through our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ"

This is encompassed in the statement: 'Love one another as I have loved you' *John 13*

We aim to deliver a sex education programme that encompasses the following areas:

The teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, the school mission statement and the statutory requirement of the DCFS

This policy has been developed with due regard to the values of the Roman Catholic Church, the school mission statement and to national health targets, which include:

1. Reducing teenage pregnancies
2. Delaying early sexual activity
3. Reducing sexually transmitted infections.

Objectives of Health, Sex & Relationships Education:

1. To help students develop Christian values, with special reference to the Roman Catholic tradition, especially in relation to the responsibilities of adulthood.
2. To ensure students are given the necessary knowledge in health, sex and relationships education.
3. To encourage students to understand and discuss practical aspects of their own body and reproduction.
4. To help students understand their own sexuality and that of others
5. To promote self-esteem
6. To provide a forum for the expression of feelings
7. To develop skills for life

The Moral Framework of Health, Sex and Relationship Education

We teach health, sex and relationships education within the following contexts:

- Human beings are created in the image of God and are inscribed with the vocation, capacity and responsibility of love and communion with others
- Respect for self and others
- Non-exploitation in relationships
- Honesty with self and others
- An exploration of the rights, duties and responsibilities in sexual relationships
- Compassion, forgiveness, mercy and care for those who do not conform
- An understanding and acknowledgement of diversity regarding religion, culture and sexual orientation
- Self-discipline

| This may include working with health care professionals or other agencies.

Guidance from the Catholic Education Service

In designing our programmes of study, we have acted in accordance with the following advice:

1. Human sexuality is a gift from God and finds its perfect expression within loving life-long marriage. Any other physical sexual expression falls short to some degree of that ideal. It follows that human sexuality is not fulfilled in self-gratification or in promiscuous or casual relationships.
2. Traditional (Christian) marriage should be promoted as the fundamental building block of society and of family life and as the proper context for the nurture of children.
3. Students should be taught from an early age to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others. They should be given accurate information, which will enable them to understand difference and help to remove prejudice.
4. Students have a right to develop without being subject to any physical or verbal abuse about sexual orientation or to the encouragement of sexual activity.
5. Life-long celibacy can be fulfilling. In this way of life an individual's sexual instincts may be channelled into generous love and service of others.
6. Life-long human friendships are an important gift and should be honoured and cherished.

7. Human beings fall short of the ideal but the admission of failure can bring forgiveness and reconciliation. People can change their behaviour. Couples working through problems within marriage can find deeper love and strengthened character.

Staff Training

Opportunities will be provided for staff to develop their understanding of Church teaching, and their skills in dealing with these sensitive issues.

Dissemination of the Policy

This policy will be available on the school website.

Basis for Developing the SRE policy

This policy has been written with reference to guidance from relevant government and Diocesan Documentation:

- Sex and Relationship Education, CESEW statement on Sex and Relationships Education (October 2008) healthy lifestyles and financial capability, QCA/05/1695, 2006
- Rotherham Children and Young People's plan 2006-2009
- National Healthy School Guidance 2005
- Every Child Matters 2004
- Sex and Relationship Education Guidance (DfEE 0116/2000)

Equal Opportunities/Inclusiveness

The SRE policy and programme of studies will reflect the ethos of the school, by providing a secure, non-judgemental environment in which to learn. All students will be treated equally regardless of gender, race, disability or social background.

Monitoring, evaluation and Assessment

Teachers, the PSHCE Co-ordinator and the Headteacher will undertake informal evaluation of the programme. The policy will be reviewed annually, unless an immediate review is needed in response to any new guidance.

Assessment of SRE is done within the context of PSHCE, RE and Science. PSHCE lesson observations are part of the whole school observation cycle. Students and teachers undertake self-reviews and evaluations of work within PSHCE.

Child Protection Issues

Teachers will endeavour to maintain confidentiality of students, but it should be realised that in some cases – such as disclosure of child abuse or criminal behaviour – this confidentiality will have to be broken. Staff know the Child Protection procedures and there is a designated Child Protection Officer(s)

Complaints Procedure

In the first instance, concerns should be made to Head of PSHCE. Issues that cannot be resolved will be referred to the appropriate Assistant Head. The only justifiable grounds for complaint are that this policy has not been upheld.

If parents are unhappy with the policy, their objections will be discussed on the policy review date.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the health, sex and relationships education provided at the school except for those parts included in the National Curriculum. Sex Education and Relationships is taught during the summer term.

Reviewed by Teaching & Learning committee March 2006 (not amended)
Reviewed by Eileen Gilmartin, and relevant members of staff March 2009
Adopted by Governing Body May 2009
Reviewed by Eileen Gilmartin and Lynn Kelly May 2011
To be reviewed May 2012