

# **St Wilfrid's RC College**

## **Relationships and Sex Education Policy**

### **Mission Statement**

At St Wilfrid's Roman Catholic College, we are committed to inspire and develop all members of our community on a journey through faith and learning.

We strive to achieve excellence and overcome challenges through mutual respect and consideration, underpinned by Gospel values and the example of Christ.

Faith and learning are at the heart of everything we do to ensure that every child fulfils their full God given potential.

### **Definition**

Relationships and Sex Education draws upon the existing knowledge provided by parents, carers and where appropriate, other schools that our pupils have previously attended. We base sex and relationship education on the criteria of our Mission Statement in that we provide a caring atmosphere in which the content can be sensitively and practically delivered. This content is geared to the needs of each individual pupil so enabling them to become independent, make choices and become fully integrated members of society. Full attention is given to the spiritual and moral context of sex education. As Catholic school we help provide the knowledge of sexuality that is focused on the teachings of the Church and their links to our own faith and resultant values.

### **Rationale**

*Our Christian understanding of what it means to be human.*

We are involved in Relationships and Sex Education precisely because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person:

- We are made in God's image, Jesus is "Word-made-flesh", all flesh is holy.
- Jesus' command to love is the basis of all Christian morality.
- Humans are created out of love.

- To be human is to relate – we exist in relationship.
- We must live in “right relationships” with the whole of creation.
- There is a need to overcome misunderstanding the distortion of views and values often portrayed by the media.

*The Catholic school sets out to be a school for the human person and of human persons. The person of each individual human being, in their material or spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ’s teaching: this is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school .... For this reason, the Catholic school, in committing itself to the development of the whole person does so in obedience to the solicitude of the Church, in the awareness that all human values find their fulfilment and unity in Christ.*

*(Ref: The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium. Para 9 Congregation for Catholic Education 1997)*

### **General Aims**

- To lay foundations that help pupils have a properly informed conscience and to grow in relationships.
- To enable pupils to make right judgements and to take appropriate action in the many varied situations in which they may find themselves.
- To give the correct information in a manner relevant to the age and stage of developments of the pupils.
- To respond to questions in a sensitive, but age appropriate way.
- To adopt a sensitive, but nevertheless positive approach – bearing in mind that all pupils do not share the same background.
- To promote gradual and supportive progress in Relationship and Sex Education from year 7-13.
- To deepen knowledge of Christ’s teaching in order to understand Christian values and develop the ability to make wise judgements in every day dealings with peers, parents, teachers and neighbours etc.
- To build confidence so that they welcome maturity, but at the same time develop increasing awareness of responsibilities that accompany “growing up”.
- To develop good communication with parents and parish so that Relationship and Sex Education in school is complementary to the teaching and life of home and family

### **Specific Aims**

- To help and encourage our pupils to get to know and understand themselves more fully.
- To deepen their awareness and understanding of others.
- To give the pupils a positive view of themselves spiritually, emotionally and physically.
- To teach pupils to understand the physical development of their own bodies and those of the opposite sex.
- To encourage the pupils to understand sexuality within the context of a loving relationship.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- “The Church has always recognised that it is the privilege and responsibility of the family to inform and educate their children in all matters pertaining to human growth and development, particularly in the sensitive area of sexual development”. (Gaudium et Spec N.52)
  
- “Parents are key figures in helping their children to cope with the physical and emotional aspect of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities sexual maturity brings”.  
(DES Circular No. 11/87)

### **Parents**

Acknowledgement that parents are the first and best educators of their children and that the school works in partnership with them. They have the right to be consulted before a Relationship and Sex Education programme is embarked upon.

### **Governors**

Have responsibility for ensuring there is a Relationship and Sex Education policy, in consultation with teachers and parents, which is in keeping with Catholic teaching. If necessary they will provide guidelines for the teaching of sensitive issues. Governors will ensure that the programme and the resources are monitored and evaluated.

### **Subject Leader**

- Advise governors on the content and organisation of Relationships and Sex education.
  
- Contribute to reviewing existing provision.

### **Teachers**

- Use professional skills in developing the curriculum.
  
- Draw on help and guidance from relevant sources, e.g. health professionals.

- Teach and Relationship and Sex education curriculum as detailed in the scheme of work.
- Participate in monitoring and evaluating Sex and Relationship education.

### **Provision of Programme**

Responsibility for the policy and provision of Sex and Relationship education rests with the governing body. The Head teacher carries delegated responsibility and is supported in the oversight of the programme. All staff have some responsibility for the Relationship and Sex education programme, supported by named member(s) of staff who have specific responsibility for this area of the curriculum.

### **Monitoring and Review**

The policy will be reviewed annually as part of the school's policy review cycle and in the light of national and local changes.