



## SEX EDUCATION POLICY

### Aims of the Policy

The Sex Education Policy aims to fulfil the Mission Statement of the school. It responds to the requirements of the Education Reform Act for schools to provide a balanced and broadly based curriculum that:

- a) Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the students and
- b) Prepares such students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Specific aims are:

- To promote a holistic understanding of human nature by emphasising the close unity that exists between our bodily sexuality and the life of the spirit in its relationship with God.
- To promote confidence and a positive self image.
- To foster an understanding of other peoples needs and a non judgmental consideration of others.
- To promote the idea of rights and responsibilities in relationships.
- To fulfil the need of the National Curriculum in Science at KS3 and KS4.
- To give students accurate information to enable them to become adults who can make informed decisions about their lives.
- To promote discussion and understanding of critical issues as highlighted in recent scientific developments.
- To enable students to develop a Christian moral conscience within the context of a Catholic education.
- To fulfil the aims of the curriculum guidance for Health Education.

### Organisation

#### Co-ordinator:

**Miss E Ley, Assistant Headteacher – Student Wellbeing and Safeguarding**

#### Teachers:

Sex Education is a cross curricular theme and, as such, is the domain of every teacher. It is also delivered by teachers through the PSHE programme.

#### Training:

When available and appropriate, INSET will be provided to enhance student experience.

#### Methodology:

Teachers employ a variety of active learning approaches. Openness is encouraged through small working groups and discussion in friendship groups. Visitors from external agencies are used to facilitate learning where expertise is needed.

#### Classroom:

Classes are taught in single sex groups and PSHE, where most sex education takes place, occurs in mixed ability groups.

#### Evaluation:

Teachers regularly evaluate their programmes of work at department meetings and Pastoral meetings. Students are asked to evaluate more at the end of each module of study.

#### Resources:

A variety of worksheets, videos and visitors are used. They are chosen according to accessibility and appropriateness for the students.

#### Cross-Phase Liaison:

This is achieved through the R.C. schools academic council and feeder schools.

### Specific Issue Statements and Policies

- a) Information/advice to students:

In the classroom information, not advice, may be given to students. Individually, information is given as needed. Students are encouraged to talk to their parents and are given support to do so. Students are sometimes referred to professional agencies

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- as appropriate.
- b) Confidentiality: Teachers should not tell students that they can give total confidentiality whether in the classroom or individually. Students should be told that what they say may need to be repeated to senior staff, parents or external agencies.
  - c) Child abuse procedure: This may be obtained from the Safeguarding Co-ordinator Ms E Ley
  - d) Equal opportunities: It is recognised that sex education should be available for all students.
  - e) Complaints: Parents who wish to discuss the sex education policy or procedure contents of the sex education programme should contact the Sex Education co-ordinator, Ms E Ley.
  - f) Child Withdrawal: Under Section 241 of the Education Act 1993, parents have the right to withdraw their child from sex education lessons, unless it is part of National Curriculum Science. If they should wish to do so, they should contact Ms E Ley to discuss the reasons why and to arrange alternative arrangements.
  - g) Involvement of other agencies: This is the responsibility of the Head of House and curriculum leaders. They should ensure that agencies work within the context of our Christian ethos.
  - h) Working with parents: Parents are encouraged to contact the school to discuss any health related issues. Parents are consulted as necessary. They are also invited to meetings in school to discuss specific issues.
  - i) The use of leaflets from Outside agencies: Care should be taken when using leaflets etc. provided by outside agencies. Such material should suit the age and ability of the students and should not be left around for others to see. The contents of the material should coincide with the philosophy of our school. If in any doubt about the suitability of material, teachers are advised to consult with their Curriculum Leader or Head of House, as appropriate.

### Dissemination of the policy

- a) To teaching staff through using part of a staff INSET day.
- b) To all governors via the standards and ethos committee.
- c) Health Awareness Evening.
- d) To any parent on request from the school reception.
- e) To parents of new students.

By order of the Governing Body of Notre Dame School

Policy first adopted by Governors Ethos Committee: Summer 2008

Review Term: 3 yearly

Review Date: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2011 ..... Signed Chair of Ethos .....

Review Date: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014 ..... Signed Chair of Ethos .....

Review Date: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 ..... Signed Chair of Ethos .....

Next Review: February 2020 .....