



St. Aloysius' Catholic Primary School

Relationships and Health Education Policy

Aims and Objectives

This policy sets out what the curriculum subject relationships and health education (RHE) is, and how it is taught at St Aloysius Catholic Primary School (the school).

1. Statutory requirements

Under the Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019 ("Regulations"), made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Relationships Education and Health Education (RHE) are compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education. Sex education is compulsory only in secondary education.

The Regulations state that pupils learn about (i) safety in forming and maintaining relationships, (ii) the characteristics of healthy relationships, and (iii) how relationships may affect physical and mental health and well-being. They also state that the education must be appropriate having regard to the age and religious background of pupils.

2. Framework and aims

At St Aloysius school the teaching of relationships and health education (RHE) is set within the framework of the Catholic Church's understanding of the unique and irreplaceable dignity of every human person as a beloved child of God.

Consistently with the school's mission, teaching in RHE aims to have the best interests of pupils at heart, helping children to grow in knowledge and understanding of healthy relationships, developing appropriate personal and social skills, and becoming appreciative of the values and virtues on which their human flourishing depends.

In all aspects of the curriculum RHE is aligned with the teaching of the Catholic faith on marriage and the family, as set out in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, especially paragraphs 2331-2400 and 1601-1666.



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3. Teaching within PSHE

Most RHE teaching at the school forms part of the wider PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education) programme, as recommended by the DfE's statutory guidance. This is through "Alive to the World", a story-based programme of character and relationships education. The programme accords with the ethos of our Catholic school, including the importance of marriage and family life, friendship, and wholesome relationships in the classroom and wider community. As required by the statutory curriculum, the programme also covers such topics as honesty, self-discipline, good hygiene and self-care, healthy living, appropriate boundaries, bullying, and resilience against peer and media pressure. Encountering these situations in the third person of a varied group of characters allows pupils the freedom to develop their understanding in a non-intrusive way and without stereotyping.

4. Teaching within the science curriculum

Some aspects of RHE, such as reproduction in year 6, are delivered as part of the national curriculum.

5. Teaching about the human person in relation to God

During the summer term the school draws on resources from Ten Ten resource's "Life to the Full", a faith-inspired programme which is designed around the Catholic Education Service (CES) primary RSE curriculum: Created and loved by God; Created to love others; Created to live in community. The programme's teaching about the meaning of love and relationships is based on the Church's understanding of the human person in relation to God.



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6. Differentiated learning

RHE is delivered in a way that takes into account each pupil's age, individual maturity, abilities and circumstances. Pupils will receive appropriately differentiated support in order to enable them to learn and understand. Teaching methods will be adapted to meet the varying needs of individual pupils.

7. Primacy of parental role

The school recognises that parents are the first and most important teachers of their children. The curriculum is therefore integrated across the home-school partnership and parents are encouraged to discuss subjects with their children as they arise. Schemes of work and resources will be made available to parents on request. Parents will be informed by letter when the more sensitive aspects of RHE will be covered in order that they can be prepared to talk and answer questions about their children's learning. Parents have the right to withdraw pupils from sex education lessons, although there is no right to withdraw pupils from classes covering the science curriculum. If parents wish to withdraw their child from sex education they should contact the Headteacher. A list of supplementary resources which parents may find helpful is attached to this policy, and further resources will be added.

8. Teaching about puberty, fertility and conception

From year 5, the curriculum includes discussion of the physical and emotional changes that occur in adolescence (puberty). In year 6 the curriculum includes the science of fertility and conception. A presentation of the development of the baby in the womb is given by the Life charity educational officer. Parents are notified in advance of these lessons.



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9. Teaching responsibility

Class teachers are responsible for teaching RHE. However, all staff will be involved in developing the attitudes and values aspects of RHE. They are expected to be role models for pupils of good, healthy, wholesome relationships as between staff, other adults and pupils, and to contribute to the development of pupils' personal and social skills.

10. External Visitors

The school may call upon help and guidance from outside agencies and health specialists to deliver aspects of RHE. Such visits will always complement the current programme and never substitute or replace teacher led sessions. External visitors will be clear about their role and responsibility while they are in school delivering a session and must adhere to the CES Checklist for External Speakers to Schools code of practice. Parents will be informed in advance of such visits.

11. Other roles and responsibilities

Governors

- Draw up the RHE policy, in consultation with parents and teachers;
- Ensure that the policy is available to parents;
- Ensure that the policy is in accordance with other whole school policies, the ethos of the school and the Catholic faith;
- Ensure that parents know of their right to withdraw their children;
- Establish a link governor who is a foundation Catholic governor to share in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, including resources used;
- Ensure that the policy provides proper and adequate coverage of relevant National Curriculum science topics and the setting of RHE within PSHE.



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Headteacher

- Takes overall delegated responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, the Diocesan Education Service and the Local Education Authority, also appropriate agencies.

RHE Co-ordinator

- May be the Headteacher or a Catholic member of staff.
- With the Headteacher, has a general responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy and will provide a lead in sharing information relating to RHE and the provision of in-service training.

All Staff

- All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they are expected to actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well-being of their pupils.
- Teachers are expected to teach RHE in accordance with Catholic teaching. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching RHE, and the Catholic elements of the curriculum will be explained by reference to the Catechism of the Catholic church, especially paragraphs 2331-2400 and 1601-1666.
- Teachers have been included in the development of this policy and all staff should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them.

12. Relationship to other policies and curriculum subjects

This policy includes guidelines about pupil safety and is compatible with the school's other policy documents (for example, Bullying policy, Safeguarding Policy, Mobile Phones Policy etc).



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13. Children's questions

The school wants to promote a healthy, positive atmosphere in which RHE can take place, and to ensure that pupils can ask questions freely, confident of receiving answers. Some questions, however, may raise issues which it would not be appropriate for teachers to answer during ordinary class time. These will be discussed separately and, where appropriate, following discussions with SLT or the DSL.

14. Safeguarding

If discussion leads to disclosure of a safeguarding issue teachers will not let any fears and worries go unnoticed. Where a teacher suspects that a child or young person is at risk of abuse, they are required to follow the school's safeguarding policy and immediately inform the designated senior member of staff responsible.

15. Monitoring and Evaluation

The RHE Co-ordinator will monitor the provision of the various dimensions of RHE by examining plans, schemes of work and samples of pupils' work at regular intervals. The subject will be evaluated regularly, and the results of the evaluation will be reported to staff and Governors.

16. Consultation

This policy has been circulated, and the resources made available for inspection, to parents, carers, staff and governors, during a consultation period between [12 February and 8 March 2021].

17. Review

This policy will be reviewed after one year in the first instance and then every two years.



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18. Some suggested resources for parents

- Alive to the World
- Pontifical Council for the Family, The truth and meaning of human sexuality: guidelines for education within the family (Vatican, 1995)
- Catechism of the Catholic Church (1994)

Signed Headteacher

Signed Chair of
Governors

Date April 2021

Review April 2023