

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Sex Education Policy

(Reviewed – July 2009)

This policy should be viewed in light of our Mission Statement as follows:

At St. Joseph's we live, love and
Learn by the example of Jesus.



A Journey in Love – A Rationale

At St Joseph's, sex education is taught within the context of a loving relationship using the *A Journey In Love* scheme of work.

'God's love for us is fundamental in our lives and it raises important questions about who God is and who we are.'
(Deus Caritas Est 2)

A Journey In Love has as its foundational premise the belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God and, as a consequence, gender and sexuality are god's gift, reflect God's beauty and share in the divine creativity. The main principle underpinning our sex education policy is that that all children may grow and develop healthily towards an understanding of their gender and its implications for successful relationships and that in doing so, they are at ease with themselves and grow in self-knowledge.

Through using the *A Journey In love* scheme, an aspect of the mystery of love is treated in each year group; children are encouraged to marvel at the wonder and beauty of God's creative love. The tasks undertaken by the children are both progressive and developmental and focus on physical, social, emotional , intellectual and spiritual development.

Aims of Sex Education

At St. Joseph's we believe that sex education is an educational entitlement of all pupils and an integral part of each pupil's emergence into adulthood. It is taught in accordance with recommendations from the Archdiocese of Westminster and is

delivered primarily through the *A Journey In love* scheme of work as outlined above.

Through teaching sex education at St. Joseph's we aim:

- To encourage personal responsibility in all forms of behaviour;
- To encourage self-esteem;
- To encourage respect and consideration for others;
- To provide support and information for young people and their parents;
- To promote openness and discussion on related issues in and out of school.

The aim of this policy is to clearly communicate to staff, parents, visitors and pupils the manner in which sex education will be delivered in this school.

Content

Through the use of the *A Journey In Love* scheme, sex education not only provides knowledge and encourages the acquisition of skills and attitudes, which allow pupils to manage their lives in a responsible and healthy way, it also enables them to think ever more deeply about the spiritual aspect of their relationships with others.

As well as developing an ever deeper understanding of their physical and social development, it also encourages the children to think increasingly more about the wonders of God's creation and their role in respecting this creation.

Pupils will be encouraged to consider the importance of the following values :

- Respect and valuing themselves and others;
- Understanding and sensitivity towards the needs and views of others;
- Responsibility for their own actions;
- Responsibility to the school, their family and the wider community.

c) Skills and abilities

Pupils will be helped to develop the following skills:

- Communication including the making and keeping of relationships;
- Assertiveness;
- Decision-making;
- Recognising and using opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle.
- Relating their own relationships to those that God has with us on a spiritual level.

More detailed information can be found in the *Journey in Love* scheme of work, samples of which are sent to parents to inform them of the work that their children will be undertaking in relation to the particular unit of study for their year group.

Organisation

- a. Sex Education is overseen by the Governing Body in association with the Head Teacher and the RE co-ordinator.
- b. Delivery is through the 'A Journey In Love' scheme of work as outlined earlier.

Teaching approaches

A variety of approaches are used to give pupils relevant information; to enable moral issues to be explored through discussion; and to acquire appropriate skills. Details can be seen in the scheme of work.

Pupil groupings

Pupils are taught in mixed ability and gender groups within their year group.

Resources

- Materials – As well as the approved scheme of work, a wide range of teaching resources is available to teachers and for inspection by parents through the Governing Body/Head Teacher
- All teaching staff are appropriately trained and will be involved in teaching sex education at an appropriate level. Support is offered through an ongoing in-service training programme.

Monitoring and Review

- a. Sex education will be monitored by the Head Teacher, the RE co-ordinator and the governing body.
- b. The full policy will be made available to all parents/guardians when their child enters the school.
- c. A nominated governor has a link role between the school and the Boverning Body

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Review date: July 2010