Prayer and Liturgy Policy

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

19 West End Road, Old Costessey, Norwich. NR8 5AG

Part of the St. John the Baptist Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

We try to follow Jesus by loving each other and caring for God's world.

Wisdom, Love, Might, Let there be Light!

Last reviewed on:	March 2025
Next review due:	March 2027

School Mission Statement:

We try to follow Jesus by loving each other and caring for God's world.

School Motto:

"Wisdom, Love, Might, Let there be Light!"

We aim to make the children who attend St Augustine's feel cared for and secure in surroundings where Catholic values are practised, and where their gifts and abilities are recognised and developed in an atmosphere of respect and friendship.

In planning the curriculum we attend to the development of the whole child: the physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual."

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance from the Department for Education which sets out what is expected of organisations and individuals to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School
Policy for Relationship and Sex Education

Context

We are involved in relationships and sex education because of our Christian beliefs about God and about the human person. The belief in the unique dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God underpins the approach to all education in a Catholic school. Our approach to RSE therefore is rooted in the Catholic Church's teaching of the human person and presented in a positive framework of Christian ideals

This policy is informed by Amoris Laetitia (Pope Francis 2016), guidance from The Catholic Bishop's Conference (Learning to Love March 2017) and the Diocese of East Anglia document, Guidance and Principles for Relationship and Sex Education, issued (January 2018).

Our policy for 'Relationship and Sex Education' has been written in conjunction with the DfE guidance for schools (DfES 0116/2000).

Mission Statement

We try to follow Jesus by loving each other and caring for God's world.

Our school mission statement and teaching of the Catholic Church underpins teaching and learning within our school.

Relationship education is part of the RE, personal, social and health education (PSHE), PE and Science curriculum in our school. When we inform our pupils about relationship issues, we do this with regard to teachings of the Catholic Church, morality and individual responsibility and in a way that allows children to ask and explore spiritual, social and moral questions. The DfE guidance states that relationship education is about 'understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care'. At St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School we value this statement and endeavour to encourage our pupils to understand and respect it's importance.

Aims and Objectives

As a school community we recognise that parents have the prime responsibility for teaching their children about Relationships and Sex Education. We will therefore, supplement and support our parents with appropriate programmes of study for all our pupils.

We aim to:

- Make the children feel loved, cared for and secure in surroundings where Catholic values are practised and where courtesy, respect and consideration for others are of paramount importance;
- Develop a sensible, responsible, factual, basis of knowledge founded on love and the teaching of the Catholic Church;
- Guide their understanding that healthy relationships are God's gift to us and should be enjoyed and never abused.

Within our relationship education we teach our pupils about:

- Looking after and maintaining a healthy body;
- Respecting their bodies;
- The importance of family life;
- Building positive relationships with others, involving trust and respect;
- Moral questions;
- Respecting the views of other people.

In the Science curriculum the pupils at our school learn:

- That animals, including humans, move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce;
- To recognise and compare the main external parts of the bodies of humans;
- That humans and animals can produce offspring and these grow into adults;
- Describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival;
- Describe the importance of humans for exercise, eating the rights amounts of different types of food and hygiene;
- Describe the changes as humans develop to old age including puberty;
- To recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and treat others with sensitivity.

Implementation and Review of Policy

Implementation of the policy will take place after consultation with the Governors. This policy will be reviewed every 2 years by the Head teacher, RSE Co-ordinator, Governing Body and Staff. The review date is noted on the front page of the policy document.

If the policy appears to need modification, then the RE subject leader will report findings and recommendations to the full governing body. Any changes will then be referred to the Diocese for ratification.

Defining Relationship and Sex Education

The DfE guidance states that "children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way". It is about the development of the pupil's knowledge and understanding of her or him as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationships with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. In primary schools the focus should be on "teaching the fundamental building blocks and characteristics of positive relationships, with particular reference to friendships, family relationships, and relationships with other children and with adults." This would include the topics of families and the people who care for me, caring friendships, respectful relationships, online relationships and being safe.

Information taken from: Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education: Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers

Relationship and Sex Education Curriculum

We teach about the uniqueness of the Human Being and relationships through different aspects of the curriculum. While we carry out the main relationship education in our PSHE curriculum, we also cover relationships in other areas of the curriculum. In particular, Science, PE and RE, which we believe contribute significantly to children's knowledge and understanding of their own bodies and how they are changing and developing. We always encourage our pupils to voice their opinions and discuss any issues they may have with other pupils and adults in the room.

At our school, we use an educational programme provided by Ten:Ten called 'Life to the Full' throughout the school alongside RE. This programme has been produced with support from the Catholic Education Service (CES) and is approved for use in schools by the Diocese.

The purpose of this programme is focused on supporting both teachers and parents in Catholic education to enable holistic development and growth of children. A curriculum map and information regarding this programme can be found on our website. In line with guidelines set out by the Diocese, we teach puberty, sexual intercourse and conception to the Summer Terms of Years 5 and 6.

Parents are able to access all information provided by Ten:Ten through a parental login on their website. The information consists of lesson content and parent support materials. On our website, each year group will have a curriculum map and overview to outline the sequence of lessons and identify what is covered in them. This is to provide parents with as much information as possible and also make them aware of sensitive topics that will be taught and discussed, so that they are able to support their child at home.

https://www.st-augustines.norfolk.sch.uk/curriculum-areas/curriculum/pshe-rse/

Teaching and Learning

Class teachers are responsible for the teaching and learning of Relationships and Sex education supported by the RE leader and PSHE Leader. The majority of lessons will take place within the usual class organisation. It is recommended the teaching of the programme takes place in the summer term in years 5&6 although teachers may organise the curriculum to suit their children's needs.

Staff will be sensitive to the needs of differing pupils, levels of maturity and personal circumstances. We will ensure equality (Equalities Act 2010) irrespective of disability, SEND; race, nationality, ethnic origin; gender; religion or sexual orientation.

The Role of Parents

We recognise that parents have the prime responsibility for teaching RSE to their children. As a school we will work in partnership with parents to support them in their responsibility to teach their children about Relationships and Sex Education**:**

- Inform parents about the school's relationship education policy and practice;
- Provide a workshop for parents to view materials and ask questions
- Answer any questions that parents may have about the relationship education of their child;
- Take seriously any issue that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about the arrangements for relationship education in the school;
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to relationship education, so that the teaching in school supports the key messages that parents and carers are giving to children at home.

We believe that, through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information, children will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing bodies and their increasing responsibilities. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the relationship education programme we teach in our school. If a parent wishes their child to be withdrawn from relationship education lessons, they should discuss this with the head teacher and make it clear which aspects of the programme they do not wish their

child to participate in. The school will always comply with the wishes of parents in this regard. Children cannot be withdrawn from those aspects of the curriculum covered by the Science National Curriculum.

The Role of Other Members in the Community

We encourage other valued members of the community to work with us to provide advice and support to the children with due regard to health education. In particular, our school Chaplain and members of the Local Health Authority, such as the school nurse and other health professionals, give us valuable support with our relationship education programme. The school will make every effort to ensure visitors, materials and content is consistent with the teaching of the Catholic Church.

Confidentiality

Teachers conduct relationship education lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. However, if a child makes reference to being involved (or being likely to be involved in) sexual activity, then the teacher will take the reference seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond in a similar way if a child indicates that they have been victims of other forms of abuse. They will not try to investigate, but will immediately inform the named person for child protection issues about their concerns. The head teacher will then deal with the matter in consultation with health care professionals (see also our policy on Child Protection).

The Role of the Head Teacher

It is the responsibility of the head teacher to ensure that both staff and parents are informed about our relationship education policy and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the head teacher's responsibility to ensure that members of staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach about relationships effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity, in accordance with Catholic teaching.

The head teacher liaises with external agencies regarding the school relationship education programme and ensures that all adults who work with our children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within its framework (see CES guidance on external agencies).

The head teacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

Assessment, Monitoring and Review

Relationship education has three main elements:

- Attitudes and values;
- Personal and social skills;
- Knowledge and understanding.

These areas will be monitored by the class teacher and any notes made, will be in the class teachers short term planning. As a school, we assess relationship education through pupil self-assessment, peer-group assessment and teacher assessment (see also our PSHE and citizenship policy).

It is the responsibility of the RE leader to monitor relationship education and provide feedback, if necessary, to the class teachers, phase groups and all staff collectively.

A member of the governing body will monitor the RSE teaching and learning annually through discussions with members of staff; pupil perception interviews and parental feedback. The responsible governor will report to the full governing body annually with evaluations and recommendations for development.