



CARDINAL GRIFFIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION / FAMILY LIFE POLICY (2014)

Rationale

As a Catholic School we understand that all our pupils are of intrinsic and absolute value as they are created by God and in the image of God. With this at the centre of all our teaching, and especially our sex and relationship education, we aim to make our teaching holistic and fitting to the needs of the pupils.

Church Teaching

The Sex and Relationship programme, 'All that I am'¹ at Cardinal Griffin Catholic School is underpinned by the following Church teachings:

- every human life has value through being created by God
- that the value of the human derives from the simple fact of existing and is not dependent on any individual's age, abilities, social acceptability or any other characteristic
- self respect and respect for each other must underline all human relationships²

Statutory Requirements

Statutory requirements for sex education are set out in the DfE's guidance booklet entitled 'Sex and Relationships Education'. The law requires that maintained secondary schools teach sex education, human growth and reproduction, including education about HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.³ The school sex education programme meets these requirements while also encouraging pupils to consider the views of the Catholic Church and the value of the human person.

AIMS OF THE SEX AND RELATIONSHIP PROGRAMME

Aim of the Full Programme

The key aim of the programme is to provide a resource that is founded on Catholic understanding of the human person and an appreciation that authentic human love is more than sexual expression, for the human person is made in the image and likeness of God and this dignity is inalienable. The core aims of the programme are:

- to help students come to an understanding of themselves and others as fully human
- to enable young people to learn what the Church teaches and build bonds of trust and communication with each other
- to augment students' understanding of their physical and emotional development
- to promote ways in which young people can examine contemporary stereotypes of masculine and feminine behaviour and assume responsibility for their actions
- to augment teachers' subject knowledge and confidence

¹ Birmingham Diocesan Programme

² All that I am Staff Handbook

³ The National Curriculum

- to help students develop the confidence and skills to discern messages in the media and the positive and negative effects of peer pressure, enabling them to make decisions about how to act in accordance with their own beliefs and values

Key Stage 3 Objectives

Pupils will learn:

- to recognise the features of healthy friendships
- to recognise what is appropriate and inappropriate behaviour in a relationship
- to understand that 'being in love', 'lust' and 'true love' are quite different
- to understand the value of chastity
- to understand the family in its social context and examine the roles and responsibility of family members
- to understand the spiritual context of the family as a community where members can grow in faith, hope and love
- to understand that the family provides, in most cases, the best loving and secure support for the balanced development of the child
- to identify different types and forms of separation and understand that separation and loss from those we love is often a natural and necessary part of life
- to acknowledge that love cannot be easily separated from anxiety and suffering and appreciate that for believers God accompanies them in times of joy and sorrow
- to identify their own opinions based on their experience of relationships and marriage and explore the media portrayal of relationships and marriage
- to explore the teaching of the Catholic Church on marriage
- to appreciate that sexual intercourse is the deepest and most intimate sign of human love
- to understand that parents are co-creators with God and that each person is unique at conception and therefore worthy of respect

Key Stage 4 Objectives

Students will learn:

- to examine the characteristics, nature and intent of disposable and permanent lifestyles and behaviour, and to understand why people opt for certain life choices
- to understand that certain choices can entail undesirable outcomes, such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV and abortion
- to examine the nature, range and consequences of addictive behaviour such as eating disorders, alcohol and drug abuse
- to understand why some people choose suicide and how society responds to suicide
- to reprise how loss and bereavement affect the behaviour of the individual and how loss and bereavement affects society
- to know and understand what the law has to say about sexual intercourse between different individuals
- to reprise and be able to understand male and female physical development, sexual self-awareness and the Church's teaching on masturbation
- to understand contraception, to be able to distinguish between natural and artificial methods, and to understand that some methods are abortifacient
- to understand the Church's teaching on contraception and family planning
- to be able to demonstrate that the life skills they have learnt are likely to inform their future decision-making

- to be able to know and understand what human and divine aspects and skills are required in order to sustain a happy, authentic marriage, which is life-long and life-giving
- to be able to understand homosexuality, examine why prejudice and discrimination is harmful and learn to respect all people
- to identify what a baby needs and the role of conditional and unconditional love in parenthood
- to know how a baby will affect personal life choices and relationships and to understand the changed priorities and responsibilities of the parent
- to explore how the nature of parenthood changes as the child grows and develops

Key Stage 5 Objectives

Students will learn:

- to recognise the value and presence of an informed conscience
- to apply the principles arising from an informed conscience
- to appreciate and evaluate the impact of the Church's moral teaching upon personal beliefs, attitudes and conduct
- to understand the moral teaching of the Church on life, and related issues, and how this can conflict with values in daily life
- to apply, and use, the available tools of Christian living to their own moral stance and lifestyle
- to reprise and reflect on the Church's teaching on conscience, personal beliefs, values and attitudes, and to develop a life pattern that incorporates regular self review

Organisation

All departments promote the values of the Catholic Church and where issues of Sex and Relationships arise aim to deal with them in a sensitive and supportive way. As part of the Science National Curriculum the Science department teaches human reproduction and forms of contraception. The 'All that I am' programme of study is taught by the RE department.

KS3

All KS3 pupils will be taught Sex and Relationship Education during RE lessons in the Whitsun Term. Year seven and eight will be taught in mixed abilities groups.

KS4

As part of the Edexcel RE GCSE course pupils will be taught issues linked to the Sex and Relationship Education programme of study.

KS5

The learning objectives for KS5 will be taught through the compulsory General RE course.

Learning and Teaching

The RE department aims to promote a safe and calm atmosphere for pupils to learn effectively. It aims to incorporate all the preferred learning styles of students and will use a variety of teaching methods, including discussion activities, visual aids and written tasks.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

The Sex and Education objectives will be assessed by the Birmingham Diocesan level descriptors for RE. Pupils will receive a level for their knowledge, understanding and evaluation of the topics studied. The pupil's RE report will contain a comment on their achievements during Sex and Relationship lessons.

Homework and Extra-curricular Activities

Homework will be set in line with the school homework policy.

Extra curricular activities:

Year 7:	Talk by the School Nurse on puberty
Year 9 and 10:	Speaker from the charity Life on Abortion
Year 12:	Speakers from Life on Euthanasia

Inclusions and Equality

The needs of SEN and Gifted talented pupils will be met through the differentiation of tasks set and outcomes expected.

Role of Co-ordinator

To deliver, monitor and evaluate the teaching of the 'All that I am' programme and the cross curricular approach.

Parental Involvement

At the start of the academic year parents will be sent a copy of the aims and objectives of the Sex and Relationship programme of study. By law parents can withdraw their children from these lessons.

Review Arrangements

Led by:	Helen Duffield
Monitored by:	Janet Mellor

Policy Approved by the Governors on 6 May 2014