



# **ST.THOMAS OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **EDUCATION IN SEXUALITY POLICY**

### **Mission Statement**

We are a Roman Catholic Community committed to:

- Mutual respect, positive encouragement and participation.
- Recognising the different personal and educational needs of all pupils.
- The delivery of the full national curriculum together with a religious education syllabus approved by the Catholic Church.
- The highest standards of teaching, learning and performance.
- Maintaining a supportive partnership with parents, the parish, and the wider community.
- The professional development of all staff.

### **Aims and Values**

We believe that since every person of whatever race, condition and age is endowed with human dignity he/she has a fundamental right to an education which meets his/her needs. Pupils have the right to a curriculum which will help them develop in every way and prepare for adult life. Sex education is integral to this.

Education in sexuality is a lifelong process, facilitating growth and emotional maturity, helping the individual to grow in responsibility, to have a sense of the other person and to recognise sexuality as a gift from God. Whilst our pupils need to be given factual information, they also need to learn about feelings, relationships and behaviour as part of a whole school plan undertaken in partnership with parents. Therefore we aim to:-

- engender growth in self-respect recognising that each of us is created in the image of God
- explore the meaning and value of life and give some appreciation of the value of family life
- help our pupils understand that love is central to meaningful relationships
- enable our pupils to have some understanding of themselves and their physical and emotional growth, especially during puberty
- present sex education as part of a process of development which also includes physical, emotional, spiritual, moral and social development

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- give pupils reliable information and to correct misinformation
- foster a sense of responsibility for the feelings of others
- work in partnership with parents, supporting and respecting their wishes

To achieve these aims, it is important that the quality of human relationships in the school is marked by honesty, warmth, trust and confidence. We aim to foster these qualities.

## **Equal Opportunities**

We will endeavour to ensure that all pupils have equal rights and opportunities to participate in the programme of sex education. If support is needed for pupils with SEN or for any other reason, the way forward will be discussed with parents.

## **Methods**

From Early Years to Year 6, pupils' questions will be answered honestly and positively with knowledge appropriate to the pupils' age and understanding. We acknowledge that some pupils' knowledge and understanding may be more advanced than others which may be reflected in their questions; this will be dealt with on an individual basis. As a Catholic school, the values which are important to us are based on the teachings of the Gospel and the sex education we offer will be in accordance with this and aim to encourage appreciation of the value of family life.

In National Curriculum Science the development of the human body is studied in some year groups. Alongside this factual information children are being educated in moral and social behaviour, in relationships and values through RE, PSHE, Citizenship, Collective Worship and the pastoral life of the school.

"A Journey in Love" is the sex education programme that we use across the key stages. It has as its foundational premises 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.

In Year 5, pupils are taught about hygiene and the changes which occur at puberty.

Parents are invited to view the contents of this lesson before the children and then have the opportunity to withdraw their children, if they wish.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

Our aim is to support, not replace, parents as they help their children to cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up. The Headteacher is responsible for the organisation of the puberty talk.

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## **Other Useful Policies**

Science

Pastoral Care

Religious Education

Health & Safety

Drug Education

Our policies and practices are constantly reviewed and updated.

ORIGINAL