



St Ursula's Convent School
A Humanities College and Teaching School

EDUCATION IN HUMAN LOVE
SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION (SRE)

Policy Reviewed by:

HEADTEACHER

GOVERNORS

Reviewed	Agreed by Governing Body	Next review
March 2017	March 2017	Date of next review as required by Governors

Education in Human Love
Sex and Relationship Education Policy (SRE)

Vision

St Ursula's Convent School is a Christ centred community guided by Gospel values and rooted in the spirit of St Angela. The school endeavours to live our motto "Serviam" by valuing each member of our community.

The aim of this policy is to set out the framework for Sex and Relationship Education within the context of our Mission statement and the Catholic ethos of the school. This policy has been developed with due regard to the guidance of Catholic Church Teaching and the requirements of the law.

Sex and Relationship Education requires an integrated holistic approach which respects the fundamental dignity of the individual and the responsibilities of parents and teachers.

The aim of Sex and Relationship Education in a Catholic school is to bring the young person to the point where they can make decisions about their relationships and sexual behaviour which are fully informed, independent and congruent with true Christian values and moral principles.

At St Ursula's Convent School, we aim to "build a caring and supportive Christian community" and to "develop personal qualities of understanding of self and others, self-discipline, motivation, responsible maturity, creative freedom and integrity. All staff and governors recognise that we have a full and active part to play in preparing our students for responsible decision making within the context of their Catholic faith.

This policy is available to parents/carers on the school website.

This Policy has links with the anti-bullying policy, Safeguarding Policy.

The Consultation Process has involved:

- Review of SRE curriculum content
- Consultation with School Nurse
- Consultation with students
- Review of incidents related to sexual activity among students
- Parents Forum

What Is Sex and Relationship Education?

SRE is lifelong learning about physical, sexual, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is about the development of student's knowledge and understanding of themselves as sexual beings, about what it means to be fully human, called to live in right relationship with self and others and being enabled to make moral decisions in conscience. At the St Ursula's Convent School, it involves acquiring information, developing skills and forming positive beliefs, values and attitudes consistent with Catholic belief in the context of a Catholic School.

Principles and Values

In addition, the St Ursula's Convent School believes that SRE should:

- Ensure that the information given to students is received within the context of the Catholic ethos and teaching, and is based on sound Christian moral principles and values.
- Be an integral part of the lifelong learning process, beginning in early childhood and continue into adult life.
- Be an entitlement for all young people.
- Be set within this wider school context and supports family commitment and love, respect and affection, knowledge and openness within the Catholic ethos. Family is a broad concept; not just one model, e.g. nuclear family. It includes a variety of types of family structure, and acceptance of different approaches.
- Encourage students and teachers to share and respect each other's views. We are aware of different approaches to sexual orientation, without promotion of any particular family structure. The important values are love, respect and care for each other. Bullying on grounds of sexuality or gender assignment will be dealt with as outlined in the anti-bullying policy and any incidents will be reported on a termly basis to the Local Authority.
- Generate an atmosphere where questions and discussion on sexual matters can take place without any stigma or embarrassment.
- Recognise that parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. We aim to work in partnership with parents and students, consulting them about the content of programmes.
- Recognise that the wider community has much to offer and we aim to work in partnership with health professionals, social workers, peer educators, the Church and other mentors or advisers.

Sex and Relationship Education in this school has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of Christian values and moral principles, individual conscience and moral choices;
- learning the value of family life, marriage, stable and loving relationships;
- learning about the dignity and worth of each person as made in the image of God;
- learning about the nurture of children;
- learning the value of respect, love and care;
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas;
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making

Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
- developing self-respect and empathy for others;
- learning to make choices with an absence of prejudice;
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made;
- managing conflict;
- empowering students with the skills to be able to avoid inappropriate pressures or advances (both as exploited or exploiter)

Knowledge and Understanding

- learning about and understanding the Catholic teaching on the human person and sexuality
- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages;
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships;
- learning about family planning
- learning the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and the benefits to be gained from such delay.

Aims

The aim of SRE is to provide balanced factual information about human reproduction, together with consideration of the broader emotional, ethical, religious, and moral dimensions of sexual health through work in school and in partnership with parents.

The SRE programme should enable students to come to develop

- knowledge and understanding of Catholic teaching on human love. Our SRE programme aims to prepare students for an adult life in which they can:
- develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions,
- Judgements and behaviour; have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others and respect for individual conscience and the skills to judge what kind of relationship they want.
- understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.
- avoid being exploited or exploiting others or being pressured into unwanted or unprotected sex.
- communicate effectively by developing appropriate terminology for sex and relationship issues.
- develop awareness of the characteristics of abusive relationships
- develop awareness of their sexuality and understand human sexuality; challenge sexism and prejudice, and promote equality and diversity
- understand the arguments for delaying sexual activity.
- understand the reasons for having protected sex.
- have sufficient information and skills to protect themselves and, where they have one, their partner from uninvited/unwanted conceptions and sexually transmitted infections including HIV.
- be aware of sources of help and acquire the skills and confidence to access confidential health advice, support and treatment if necessary know how the law applies to sexual relationships.

Organisation and Content of Sex and Relationship Education

St Ursula's Convent School specifically delivers Sex and Relationship Education through its PSHE Programme, RE and Science lessons at KS3, and KS4.

Much of the Sex and Relationship Education takes place within Science and RE lessons. Tutors generally deliver the PSHE Curriculum. Form tutors work closely with their tutees over a number of years and we believe that they are usually the best people to work with the students on many of the SRE topics as they are aware of each student's individual circumstances. SRE lessons are set within the wider context of the PSHE curriculum and focus more on the emotional aspects of development and relationships, although the physical aspects of puberty and reproduction are also included. The Science National Curriculum is delivered by staff in the science department. These lessons are more concerned with the physical aspects of development and reproduction, although the importance of

relationships is not forgotten, some SRE, specifically sexually transmitted infections and what is meant by sexual activity.

The RE curriculum is delivered by RE teachers within the context of Catholic teaching with the aim of looking at Sex and relationships from a moral perspective. Here students acquire knowledge and understanding of the Catholic teaching on the human person and sexuality.

Any SRE lesson may consider questions or issues that some students will find sensitive. Before embarking on these lessons ground rules are established which prohibit inappropriate personal information being requested or disclosed by those taking part in the lesson. When students ask questions, we aim to answer them honestly, within the ground rules established at the start of the sessions. When it is felt that answering a specific question would involve information at a level inappropriate to the development of the rest of the students, the question may be dealt with individually at another time.

More expert or specialist teachers are available to support tutors who are uncomfortable with teaching certain aspects of the curriculum. Support is offered with the year team or from the PSHE co-ordinator and Year leaders who will help with planning or delivery lessons if required.

Inclusion

Ethnic and Cultural Groups:

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of different ethnic groups.

Students with disabilities:

We intend our policy to be sensitive to the needs of students with disabilities

Students with Special Needs:

We will ensure that all young people receive sex and relationship education, and we will offer provision appropriate to the particular needs of all our students, taking specialist advice where necessary.

Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation

We aim to deal sensitively and honestly with issues of sexual orientation and transgender issues, answer appropriate questions and offer support. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them.

Right of Withdrawal of Students from Sex and Relationship Education

Some parents prefer to take the responsibility for aspects of this element of education. They have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex and relationship education except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum (i.e. in Science lessons). We would make alternative arrangements in such cases. Parents are encouraged to discuss their decisions with staff at the earliest opportunity.

Confidentiality

Controversial and Sensitive Issues

Teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality.

In a case where a teacher learns from an under 16 year old that they are having or contemplating sexual intercourse or may be pregnant:

- the young person will be persuaded, wherever possible, to talk to parent/carer and if necessary to seek medical advice. This may be at school and facilitated by the Head or Deputy Head. In a case where the student does not want to give permission for parental involvement the school will need to override confidentiality and will, in a sensitive manner, inform parents/carers and refer to appropriate agencies e.g. the School Nurse
- child protection issues will be considered, and referred if necessary to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Sex and Relationship Education

It is the responsibility of the Head of RE and Head of Science to oversee and organise the monitoring and evaluation of SRE in the context of the overall school plans for monitoring the quality of teaching and learning.