

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION



Equality Act Statement

1. We welcome our duties under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in relation to age (as appropriate), disability, ethnicity, gender (including issues of transgender, and of maternity and pregnancy), religion and belief, and sexual identity.
2. We welcome our duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to promote community cohesion.
3. We recognise that these duties reflect international human rights standards as expressed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998.
Please refer to St Thomas More Catholic Primary School's Race Equality Policy.

Approved: March 2019

Next Review: September 2025

Policy on Sex and Relationships Education

Policy Statement:

At St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, we recognise the curriculum entitlement of all children to sex and relationship education. Sex and Relationship Education will be delivered in line with our Equal Opportunities Policy, within an atmosphere of trust and respect.

We aim to work in close co-operation with parents/carers to help children to prepare for the experiences and opportunities of adulthood. Effective Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) is essential if our children are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives.

We acknowledge that parents and carers are the key people for children learning about sex and relationships: the foremost educators. Our role and our programme simply complements your role in nurturing your child's wholeness.

Consistent with our Mission Statement, sex education at St Thomas More is based upon the premise that all life is from God, we are created in God's image and called to love as God is love. The gospel values of trust, honesty, forgiveness and loving and caring for one another are part of everyday life.

Pupil's personal, social, health and emotional development are promoted in our school by a supportive ethos, where we are valued and encouraged, where positive relationships are seen as important and there is a safe and secure learning atmosphere.

Content and Delivery

We aim to provide our children with an age appropriate SRE Programme, which takes into account their physical and emotional maturity. This may be within RE, Science and PSHE. The aspects of SRE may be delivered through:

- Discrete SRE lessons
- Other curriculum areas including science – (Keeping Healthy in Year 2)
- Collective Worship and Assemblies – (NSPCC Assembly)
- Outside Agencies (School nurse – used to support the school's delivery).

Monitoring and evaluation

This SRE policy is monitored by the Governors who use the Catholic Education Service (CES) Audit for RSE curriculum.

- Appendix 2

We believe that, we will be:

- Faithful to the Church's version of human wholeness whilst recognising the way we live today.
- Involve parents as they are the primary educators of their child.
- Provide a positive view.
- Equip young people to make the practical judgements about the right thing to do in particular circumstances,
- Be delivered in an age appropriate way that reflects the development of the child,
- Sensitive to the needs of the individual child and recognise the mix of children, family backgrounds etc.

- Be delivered by professionals that understand the Catholics teaching.

We at St Thomas More Primary School have adopted the 'Journey in Love' programme to support the non-statutory relationships and sex education throughout the school. The programme of study is authentic to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

A Journey in Love

A Journey in Love has its 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 order that children may grow healthy and holistically towards an understanding of their gender and its implications for successful relationships, they must at ease with themselves and grow in self-knowledge. An aspect of the mystery of love is treated in each year group: children are encouraged to marvel at the wonder of God's creative love. This is reflected in each stage of a person's growth in the Primary years through a series of suggested, progressive and developmental tasks, activities and reflections which focus on physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development.

Content:

N: Wonder at God's love

YR: God loves each of us in our uniqueness

Y1: We meet God's love in our family

Y2: We meet God's love in our community

Y3: How we live in love

Y4: God loves us in our differences

Y5: God loves me in my changing and development.

Y6: The wonder of God's love in creating new life.

(See Appendix 1 for letters to each year group with more detail about each area)

Dealing with difficult questions:

Staff will aim to deal with questions as truthfully as possible and using the curriculum content to support their answers. It may be however, that some questions are inappropriate or explicit. In this case, staff may talk to a child on an individual basis. Parents/ Carers will be informed.

If a child asks a questions or offers information which causes a member of staff to be concerned for their welfare, or makes a disclosure, then the school's Safeguarding Children procedures must be followed.

Right of Withdrawal

It is our hope that parents wish their child to be involved in the school's positive programme of sex and relationship education, following the school approach. However, we recognise parents have the right to withdraw their children from such lessons after discussion with the head teacher.

Appendix – letters to parents

Dear Parents,

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Early Years Foundation Stage

- God loves each of us in our uniqueness

Physical

The children will know and understand that God has made them unique and that we are all different but still special to him.

Intellectual/Social/Emotional

The children will look at the importance about having friends referring to the 'Rainbow Fish' and the story of the 'Good Samaritan'. The children will be thinking about good qualities in a friend and how we feel about our friends.

Spiritual

The children will focus on the story of 'Jesus welcomes the little children' and talking about children being special and how Jesus grew for 9 months in Mary's womb.

Within these sessions the children will be taught and encouraged to learn and use new vocabulary from God, Wonder, Love, Creation and Parts of their body. The children at the end of each session will have reflection time to pause and reflect on what they have been learning.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Dear Parents,

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Year 1

- We meet God's love in our family

Physical

The children will know and understand that they are growing as members of their own family and God's family. The children will discuss that babies come in different sizes and how fast they grow. The children will think about what they could do as babies and what they can do now.

Social/Emotional

The children will know and understand that they are growing and developing as members of their own family and God's family.

Intellectual

The children will talk about happy and sad moments in their family and how love is shown in their family and the need for growing up in families.

Spiritual

The children will learn about being part of God's family.

Within these sessions the children will be taught and encouraged to learn and use new vocabulary from Unique, Friend, God, Important, Different and Special. The children will learn and develop their skills through Listening, Observing, Relating, Speaking, Respecting, Praying, Reflecting and Understanding. The children at the end of each session will have reflection time to pause and reflect on what they have been learning.

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Year 2

- We meet God's love in our community

Physical

The children will know and understand that they are growing and developing in a God-given community. The children will look at the definition of the word Community eg class, school, parish etc and the signs of belonging through uniform, attendance, commitment and loyalty.

Social/Emotional

The children will look at the importance of being in a community and how a community helps us to develop our feelings and emotions.

Intellectual/ Spiritual

The children will think about how they feel when they belong to a community – Are they feeling happy, lonely etc.? The children will be celebrating that we are brothers and sisters in God.

Within these sessions the children will be taught and encouraged to learn and use new vocabulary from God, Community, Belonging, Family, Feelings and Emotions. The children will learn skills through Listening, Observing, Relating, Speaking, Respecting, Praying, Reflecting and Understanding. The children at the end of each session will have reflection time to pause and reflect on what they have been learning.

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Year 3

- How we live in love

Physical

The children will know and understand the virtues essential to friendship, such as loyalty, responsibility and they will also experience the importance both of forgiving and being forgiven and of celebrating God's forgiveness.

Social

The children will learn about keeping safe and how to help others make and keep friends and to take care of others.

Emotional

The children will think about how their friends feel when they are not there for them and how they can be supportive to others.

Intellectual

The children will learn about their own personal space and how it is important.

Spiritual

The children will look at the story of Zacchaeus who was an outcast and how Jesus accepted him as a friend and welcomed him.

Within these sessions the children will learn and develop their skills through Observing, Relating, Speaking, Respecting, Praying, Reflecting, Understanding
The children at the end of each session will have reflection time to pause and reflect on what they have been learning.

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Year 4

- God loves us in our differences

Physical

The children will know and understand that they are all different and celebrate these differences as they appreciate that God's love accepts us as we are and as we change. Within this area the children will identify the development of the baby in the womb, name the different male and female body parts and introduce various functions. The children will recognise that all pupils grow and develop at different rates,

Social

Here the children will learn How do I learn to accept and celebrate who I am? How do I accept difference in others? How do I deal with difference and manage the conflicts that arise?

Emotional

The children will appreciate their own talents, achievements and what makes them unique. The children will appreciate others and the gifts that they have been given and think about the emotions that present themselves.

Intellectual

The children will learn about the importance of personal space the difference with being alone and lonely.

Spiritual

The children will think about their feelings and learn about how to deal with them.

Within these sessions the children will learn key words such as God/Gifts, Talents, Differences, Development Change, Male and female body parts Conflict Appreciate, Celebrate and Achievement. The children will learn vital skills such as Sensitivity and Respect.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

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Year 5

- God loves me in my changing and development.

Physical/ Intellectual

For this particular part of the curriculum, children will remain together and then form into separate groups for girls and boys for discussions.

The children will know and become aware of the physical and emotional changes that accompany puberty –sensitivity, mood, swings, anger, boredom, etc and grow further in their understanding of God's presence in their daily lives. The children identifying and celebrating the ways since they have changed since birth. The discussion of external and internal changes that happen in puberty to boys and girls. The purpose of the menstrual cycle and the sexual development as a natural human growth and physical changes from child to adult.

Social/Emotional

The children will be looking at behaviour changes as we grow up and reflecting on the ways to become more sensitive to the emotional development of oneself and others.

Spiritual

The children will learn about the importance of personal space the difference with being alone and lonely.

Within these sessions the children will learn key words such as God, Sensitivity, Puberty, Celebrate, Change, Develop, etc. The children will also learn key skills such as Observing, Classifying, Listening, Respecting, Relating etc.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

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Year 6

- The Wonder of God's love in creating new life.

Physical

For this particular part of the curriculum, children will remain together and then form into separate groups for girls and boys for discussions.

The children will develop in an appropriate way for their age, an understanding of sexuality and grown further in their appreciation of their dignity and worth as children of God.

Physical

The children will learn how human life is conceived, looking at the illustrations of the organs of the human body including male and female reproductive organs.

Emotional

The children will learn that relationships develop and eventually you may be able to use the word love. The word love in real commitment.

Social

The children will be thinking about the signs of love expressed from those who care for us, older people etc.

Spiritual

The children will be learning that God causes new life to being through the love that parents have for each other.

Within these sessions the children will learn key words such as God, Dignity, Relationships, Marriage, etc. The children will also learn key skills such as Observing, Categorising, Listening, Relating, Thinking, Accepting etc.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.