

ST JOHN LLOYD CATHOLIC COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

School Mission Statement

“Learning and Growing Together in Christ”

“A Christian community which recognises the dignity and value of the individual and in which all members are encouraged to develop their potential in terms of knowledge, understanding, spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness”.

ST JOHN LLOYD
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



**EDUCATION FOR RELATIONSHIPS AND
SEXUALITY**

Reviewed by Governors December 2021

“I Praise you because I am wonderfully made”

Ps 139

1. SOME PRINCIPLES

The key principle comes from the school mission statement, as a Catholic Christian community we must recognise, and teach others to recognise, “the dignity and value of the individual”.

WE BELIEVE OUR PUPILS SHOULD:

- be fully informed so that they can acquire the knowledge which will help them make mature, informed choices
- be given a clear understanding of Catholic Christian moral values and teachings on issues covered relating to relationships and human sexuality, be aware that sexual expression is something special and important, and best placed within the context of a loving and mutually supportive relationship which is stable and exclusive, ideally within marriage
- become confident and caring young adults who understand their responsibilities and are developing skills and knowledge to keep themselves and others safe physically and emotionally.

“Effective sex and relationships education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well informed decisions about their lives.” Welsh Government Advice 2002.

The school will provide a programme of relationship and sex education in the context of the values and teachings of the Catholic Church and which meets Welsh Government Statutory requirements and the requirements of the Welsh Government Personal and Social Education Framework.

- The Welsh Assembly Government recommends that schools should always work in partnership with parents/carers, informing them regularly about the content of the SRE programmes.

Parents have the right to request that their child be wholly or partly excused from receiving sex education at the school, other than sex education contained within the national curriculum, for example in science. Parents/carers should inform the school of their wishes in writing and schools should keep a record of all such requests.

2. AIMS

To enable our pupils to:

- Grow in understanding of their physical, emotional and spiritual selves. To help individuals towards an understanding of his/her sexuality.
- See sexual expression as special and important, naturally placed in a stable, permanent, exclusive and loving relationship, ideally within marriage, ensuring that all moral issues discussed are informed by the moral teaching of the Catholic Church.
- Acquire the knowledge, attitudes and skills which will help them become responsible adults and parents; to help pupils lay the foundations for marriage and family life.
- Become confident and caring young people who understand their feelings and responsibilities and have the skills needed for their own physical and emotional safety, and that of others, and know how to seek sound help and advice when necessary.
- To help young people to form and develop healthy, stable relationships with others and accept other people as they are.

OBJECTIVES

To offer opportunity for our pupils to:

- Learn about themselves and others.
- Become aware of the wide range of views relating to sexuality and parenthood in the wider social culture.
- become aware of the teachings of the Church and how these may differ from the other views in society.

To encourage our pupils to develop:

- an informed conscience based on clear awareness of the Church’s guidance
- respect, value and tolerance for each other as individuals
- sensitivity and responsibility

CONFIDENTIALITY

Refer also to Policy on Child Protection and Safeguarding.

We cannot offer unconditional confidentiality, and our pupils need to be aware of this and understand the issues involved. We aim to support all pupils through effective procedures. Staff will be aware that pupils sometimes share information of a confidential nature, and understand the value and importance of this. Staff will treat every confidence shared sensitively, so that pupils can feel they are supported and not gossiped about. However, staff and pupils understand that sometimes confidences will have to be shared with others so that pupils are protected and supported. If, for example, a pupil refers to being involved, or is likely to be involved, in sexual activity, this will be dealt with through the School’s Child Protection procedures. “Being loved and kept safe go to the very heart of the Church’s ministry to children & vulnerable adults” (Safeguarding with Confidence – The Cumberlege Commission Report, 2007).

ANSWERING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

We aim to ensure that our pupils feel comfortable and confident when asking questions in lessons. Most of the time, these questions will be answered openly and honestly. On occasion, however, pupils may ask inappropriate questions - for example questions about a teacher’s personal life, or questions of a sensitive nature. It is important that as part of developing a sense of respect for all people that pupils understand why these can be inappropriate.

Teachers involved in the programme will develop a positive, supportive classroom climate, with clearly defined ways of working and in agreement on appropriate language to use; primarily the vocabulary used should accurate terminology and pupils should be taught to know, understand and use this terminology.

Some questions may need to be answered with the individual who raises them. Some may need a measured response appropriate to the pupil’s level of maturity and understanding. Some questions may require the involvement of parents.

PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR PARENTS

The Vatican Council stated that parents are the ideal and chief instructors of their children, a role emphasised by Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhortation “Familiaris Consortio”.

This is the first point we emphasise. This being said, it remains true that parents and the family often welcome support in this aspect of education. This programme sets out to provide this necessary support.

We will work closely with parents to raise awareness of the content of the ERS programme and how and when it is taught at St. John Lloyd. The policy and programme will be available to all parents on request.

HOW THE PROGRAM IS DELIVERED

The law requires that secondary schools teach sex education, human growth and reproduction including education about HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections as set out in the National Curriculum. It also requires that the governing body and Headteacher ensure that any sex and relationship education is provided in a way that encourages pupils to consider the value of family life.

Thus, in Key Stage 3, “Where I Am” focuses on the features of healthy relationships, the students’ own experience of relationships, the teaching of the Catholic Church on marriage and the family, and media portrayals of love, lust, marriage and sex. (See RE department Schemes of Work for more detail).

In Key Stage 4, “How I Am” examines why people opt for certain life choices and how these choices can entail undesirable outcomes, such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV and abortion.

“Learning and Growing Together in Christ”

Other topics discussed include: addictive behaviour such as eating disorders, alcohol and drug abuse; bereavement; homosexuality; contraception; euthanasia and the Catholic Church’s teaching on these subjects.

This takes place within the teaching syllabus set out by the WJEC Specification A which has been approved by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales and is also consistent with the Curriculum Guidance document published by the Catholic Bishops' Conference, *Faith and Science, Church and State, Religious, Diversity and Dialogue*.

STAFF TRAINING

We will encourage staff development and training, so that teachers are confident and skilled in delivery of ERS. Teachers will use a wide variety of teaching methods and approaches according to the School’s Policy for Teaching and Learning. Such approaches may include discussion, project work, video, ICT, group work, role-play, circle time, 'Stepping Out' techniques, etc. Pupils will usually be taught in their normal class groups, but occasionally, in order to enable a focus on specific issues, lessons may be organised in single-gender groups.

Resources will be made available as necessary, and, when appropriate, we will request the support of local Health Practitioners and other specialists.

SHARING THE POLICY

- all members of staff and governors will be given a copy of the policy
- A copy of the policy will be available on the school website or from the school office.

REVIEWING THE POLICY

The policy will be reviewed and, if necessary, amended, every two years. Amendments will take into account changing situations, the guidance offered by the Welsh Assembly/DES, the CES and the Diocese of Menevia. The review will be the responsibility of the RE Department.