

SAINT HUGH'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEM

Mr G Hughes – Headteacher

POLICY FOR SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

Mission Statement



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 St Hugh's School believes that sex and relationship education is an entitlement for all pupils. The school supports the direction of the Education Reform Act 1998, in which it is stated that sex and relationship education should be within the context of the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and of society.

1.2 Sex and relationship education is one fundamental aspect of personal development. Sex and relationship education taught at St Hugh's Catholic Primary School will prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It will assist children to learn to respect

1.3 The sex and relationship policy was drafted in consultation with Governors, staff, parents and the wider community (Appendix 1) to ensure that the policy reflects parents' wishes and the culture of the community in which St Hugh's Catholic Primary School serves.

1.4 This policy has been agreed and commences implementation on 1st January 2016. The policy shall be reviewed bi-annually, to ensure that the parents of the pupils in the current transitional years are fully aware of the sex education programme being implemented by St Hugh's Catholic Primary School.

1.5 In view of the bi-annual review of the policy it will be necessary to also review the following elements as a contribution to the policy:

- Staff training and Inset days
- Current legislative changes
- DfE guidance and procedures
- Up to date resources and implementation of resources

1.6 The sex and relationship policy will be made available for inspection and the school will provide copies free of charge for parents to keep in accordance to the Education Act 1996. In addition, under a requirement of the Education (School Information) Regulations 1993, a summary of the content and organisation of any sex education St Hugh's Catholic Primary School provide will be published in the school prospectus.

1.7 The role of the school is to work in partnership with parents so that children develop the skills and understanding they need to live confident, healthy and independent lives.

1.8 St Hugh's Catholic Primary School will honour the rights of parents, in that they have a right to withdraw their child from any or part of the sex education programme, except for the statutory requirements under the National Curriculum Science programme.

1.9 In such cases of children being withdrawn arrangements will be made for the supervision of the children within school.

1.10 The sex and relationship policy shall be used in conjunction with and reference shall be drawn upon the following policies:

- PSHE and Citizenship
- Equal Opportunities
- Child Protection
- Multicultural Policy
- Bullying Policy
- Science Policy

1.11 At St Hugh's Catholic Primary School we believe that sexual relationships are a natural development of the person but we also believe that relationships can grow in happiness if we accept the inviolable dignity of every human being. Children need to be recognised as being of individual worth. Every opportunity must be taken to reinforce their dignity and self worth.

1.12 Sex and relationship education should focus on what happiness is and how happiness can be achieved through loving and valuing ourselves and others. We must never lose the vision of dignified sexuality. Goodness, kindness, caring is the language of how we should

behave within relationships. Our long-term objective is to show children how to build long term, lasting relationships. Fundamentally we aim to develop life skills.

1.13 Good relationships will be implemented through the school expectations, so the children develop to be good, kind and friendly citizens in school, at home and in the wider community.

2. SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

2.1 The definition of sex and relationship education is stated in the DFE guidance July 2000 as:

'It is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.'

2.2 It is important that St Hugh's Catholic Primary School recognises that there is no stigmatisation of children based on home circumstances with regard to relationships outside marriage.

2.3 The nature of sex and relationship education at St Hugh's Catholic Primary School will be seen through the following aims achieved:

3. OFSTED

3.1 Under the School Inspections Act 2015 Ofsted is statutorily required to report on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. This includes evaluating and commenting on the sex and relationship policy.

3.2 St Hugh's Catholic Primary School will review and amend the policy in accordance with the report submitted by Ofsted.

4. MULTICULTURAL ASPECTS

4.1 The sex and relationship policy appreciates that when the policy is discussed and consulted with parents there is a need to ensure the content of the sex education programme is culturally acceptable.

4.2 St Hugh's Catholic Primary School recognises that it is not always culturally appropriate to address particular issues in a mixed group. In consultation with parents, the school shall establish whether a pupil or pupils come from cultures where it is only acceptable to speak about the body in single gender groups.

4.3 With this knowledge, the school shall implement the sex and relationships policy accordingly.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

5.1 The approach to teaching sex and relationships at St Hugh's Catholic Primary School is one whereby sensitivity and tolerance are of the utmost importance.

5.2 Pupils in all year groups will cover aspects of sex and relationship education through PSHE sessions and science lessons.

5.3 Parents wishing to discuss the specific aspects of the planned curriculum are invited to make an appointment with the Head Teacher or the RSHE Co-ordinator.

6. USE OF MATERIALS

6.1 All materials used by St Hugh's Catholic Primary School will be used in accordance to the sex and relationship education policy and the current legislation.

6.2 The school will have regard to the age and cultural background of the children concerned.

6.3 The material used for the sex education programme will be that recommended by the Nottingham Diocese education Department.

6.4 Parents will be invited on an annual basis to view all materials used during the Year 5 and 6 sex education programme.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY

7.1 If a teacher is directly approached by a pupil who is either sexually active or is contemplating sexual activity this will be viewed as a child protection issue in accordance with the Child Protection Policy.

7.2 Members of the school community who are sufferers of, or affected by HIV or AIDs will be treated with tolerance and respect, with confidentiality being upheld where appropriate.

7.3 The school will ensure that the staff are familiar with the procedures set out in the policy of Lincolnshire's Child Safeguarding Policy, and that this is reviewed regularly.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

8.1 The sex and relationship education will be evaluated bi-annually when the policy is reviewed.

8.2 The Head Teacher, PSHE Co-ordinator, Key Stage 2 teachers will initially discuss when puberty and menstruation is to be taught.

8.3 Governors, other professionals and parents will then be involved in this process.

8.4 The RSHE Co-ordinator will monitor the staff planning and lessons in agreement with the Head Teacher to ensure that sex and relationship education is being taught within the guidelines of the policy.

9. TEACHING STRATEGIES

9.1 The pupils at St Hugh's Catholic Primary School shall receive their sex and relationship education in the wider context of relationships, firmly embedded within the RSHE framework and 'Life to the Full Ten: Ten' programme.

9.2 The staff will receive training and support to deliver the sex education programme sensitively and effectively. The Year 5 and 6 teachers and any other professional to assist in the implementation of the programme.

9.3 All staff will take responsibility and address the needs of their class when teaching sex and relationship education.

9.4 St Hugh's Catholic Primary School will adhere to the following teaching strategies and ground rules:

- No-one will be asked a personal question
- No-one will be forced to take part in any discussion
- Only the correct language will be used
- Meanings will be explained in a sensible and factual way.

10. SPECIFIC ISSUES WHEN TEACHING SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

10.1 St Hugh's Catholic Primary School will ensure that the personal beliefs and attitudes of teachers will not influence the teaching of sex and relationship education.

10.2 Teachers and other professionals contributing to sex and relationship education are expected to work within the school policy and in line with current legislation.

10.3 St Hugh's Catholic Primary School shall contribute to the foundation of RSHE and Citizenship by ensuring all children:

- Develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings and relationships
- Are able to name the parts of the body and describe how their body works
- Can protect themselves and ask for help and support
- Are prepared for puberty.

11. LETTER TO PARENTS

11.1 A letter will be sent to parents via Class Dojo to offer consent for their Year 5 and 6 child to be involved in the sex education programme.

11.2 The invite to the parents is an opportunity to view materials that will be used as well as a chance to take to the RSHE Co-ordinator, Year 5 and 6 teachers, the Head Teacher and the nominated Governor.

11.3 The parents will have details of the content being taught and will be offered support in talking to their own child about sex.

13. MENSTRUATION

13.1 St Hugh's Catholic Primary School will make adequate and sensitive arrangements to help girls cope and request sanitary protection when it is needed.