



St Illtyd's Catholic High School

Sex and Relationship Education Policy December 2017

Introduction

The education in sexual loving is not an isolated incident in the school's curricula. The development of a Christ-centred and positive attitude to our minds and bodies, and those of others, is dealt with and witnessed to at many levels. The entire process of education is 'a holy act' and everything that goes on within it 'speaks of God's presence and all that is good in human living' (**Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Catholic School**, A-1).

The school's structures, its organisation, its programmes and its interpersonal life all help to encourage a respect for self and others:

'Sexuality is a fundamental component of personality, one of its modes of being, of manifestation, of communication with others, of feeling, of expressing and of living human love. Therefore, it is an integral part of the development of the personality and of the educative process.'

(Educational Guidance in Human Love, 4.)

Thus, education in sexual loving is not divorced from the universal aim of the school, which is to recognise that the Gospel is a challenge: to live the 'realised' humanity of Christ, one must develop the heart and mind, the capacity and the will, to 'love one another'.

This is why education in sexual loving is not seen merely as the imparting of biological knowledge (Science lessons). It is always seen in its context of interpersonal love:

'The Church is firmly opposed to an often widespread form of imparting sex information dissociated from moral principles.'

(Familiaris Consortio, 37.)

The shared values of our Catholic faith permeate all that happens in our school, so the education in sexual loving is intrinsically part of the Christ-centred and general development of our young people.

As in all other aspects of education, our school does not work in isolation in society.

Firstly, it is the family which, as in all else, provides the fundamental and crucial building blocks for the development of a mature and loving attitude towards self and others:

‘Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. In the case of Catholic parents, the first responsibility for the education of their children in faith and the moral values of the Gospel is theirs.’

(Educational Guidance in Human Love, 48 – 52.)

The school exists only to assist and complement the work of the parents in their primary responsibility for the development of their children.

Secondly, our school also ensures that pupils develop during their time with us a respectful attitude towards self and others; and that they are aware of the general processes of human development.

Finally, the Church and wider community can play their part in fostering a positive attitude to human sexuality and sexual health.

As a result of all that goes on in our school, and especially in the Science and Religious Studies departments, our hope is that our students will develop a sensitive, mature and Christian attitude to sexuality.

Clearly, the school must work together ever harder in our contemporary society so that our young people inherit an attitude that reflects the divine purpose for sexual love. In other words, that all come to recognise sexuality as a sign of the spirit-directed and the Christ-based self-giving of the married couple.

The Specific Objectives of Sex Education

Bearing in mind the Christ-centred nature of education in a Catholic school, we aim to fulfil the following objectives:

- a) to help pupils to have due regard to the value of family life;
- b) to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life;
- c) to promote in pupils their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development;
- d) to teach those aspects of the National Curriculum of Wales Statutory Orders that are concerned with human sexuality; and
- e) to strive at all times to uphold the teaching of the Catholic Church regarding sexual ethics.

General Guidance to All Staff

Naturally, subjects like responsibility, personal morality and sexual loving are brought up informally in many parts of the educational life of the school. It would be poor educational practice to stifle the exploration of these areas when they evolve in other contexts. However, staff are reminded that the subject must be treated with great sensitivity and with due regard to the Christo-centric nature of our school.

i) Contraceptive 'Advice', Information and Referrals to Under 16s

The question of family planning may arise outside of the Science and RE lessons and teachers may respond appropriately whilst making a general reference to the Science and RE Departments. Under no circumstances may a teacher give advice to an individual pupil on such matters. Areas of concern should be pursued in the normal channels.

ii) Confidentiality

This **cannot** be guaranteed. A teacher approached by a pupil for specific advice on aspects of sexual behaviour should, wherever possible, encourage the pupil to seek advice from his or her parents and from the relevant health service professional (e.g. the young person's GP).

Where circumstances are such as to lead the teacher to believe that the pupil has in mind a course of action which is likely to place him or her at moral or physical risk or in breach of the law, the teacher has a general duty to urge the pupil to seek advice as above, and **in such circumstances the Assistant Headteacher for RE, Catholic Ethos and Spirituality should be informed.**

The Assistant Headteacher for RE, Catholic Ethos, and Spirituality can arrange for the pupil to be counselled or, if the pupil is under age, referred if necessary under the relevant Child Protection guidelines to the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Child Protection.

iii) Child Sex Abuse Procedure

Please refer to the school's separate Child Protection policy and procedures.

Curriculum Provision

The departments with the primary responsibility for the delivery of the school's formal sex education programme are Religious Education and Science as outlined in their Schemes of Work.

In general, the Science department delivers the factual information on human sexual reproduction in Year 7, whilst the Religious Education department deals with moral, social and ethical issues across Year Groups and Key Stages.

Some aspects of sexual reproduction and sexual health are also part of the following:

Geography;
Child Development; and
Personal and Social Education

All members of staff involved in the teaching of sexual matters and sexual ethics, as well as visitors staff eg. School Nurse and Community Policy Officers who may advise on matters of a sexual nature, are given further guidance on Catholic teaching in appropriate meetings with the Assistant Headteacher responsible for RE, Catholic Ethos and Spirituality.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Policy Review

The monitoring and evaluation of the school's sex education policy and schemes are the responsibility of the Governing Body, the Headteacher, Head of Science and Assistant Headteacher for RE, Catholic Ethos and Spirituality.

Any issues arising from the evaluation are dealt with by the Headteacher and Governing Body.

The policy on sex education is reviewed annually to meet the needs of:

- any changes in legislation and Statutory Orders;
- the principles, policies and objectives of the Catholic Church; and
- the pupils and their parents.