

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Vision Statement

Intent

At St Francis it is our intent to go beyond teaching those elements of RSE which are statutory parts of National Curriculum Science and the guidance for PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education). We do this by building upon our Christian belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God and therefore, as we are made in the image and likeness of God, gender and sexuality are seen as God's gift, reflect God's beauty, and share in the divine creativity.

At St Francis, therefore, RSE will be placed firmly within the context of relationship, as it is there that sexuality grows and develops. All RSE will be in accordance with the Church's moral teaching. It will emphasise the central importance of marriage and the family whilst acknowledging that all pupils have a fundamental right to have their life respected whatever household they come from. It will also prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. Knowing about facts and enabling young people to explore differing viewpoints is not the same as promoting behaviour and is not incompatible with our school's promotion of Catholic teaching.

We will ensure that pupils have access to the learning they need to stay safe, healthy and understand their rights as Individuals.

Implementation

At St Francis we use Ten:Ten's 'Life to the Full' RSE programme, which was written with input from the Catholic Education Service, and is a scheme approved by the Diocese. The programme is intended to support teachers and parents in Catholic schools to enable the holistic growth of children. It includes comprehensive lesson plans for EYFS to Year 6, high-quality videos created by Ten:Ten specifically for UK-based Catholic primary schools, a programme of prayer and worship to accompany the scheme, comprehensive training for teachers and support materials for parents.

A breakdown of lesson content from EYFS to Year 6 can be found on our website although, following Diocesan guidelines, we leave the teaching of puberty, sexual intercourse and conception to the Summer Terms of Years 5 and 6. As a result, some of the Year 4 content in the scheme has been moved to these year groups.

Class teachers are responsible for the teaching and learning of Relationships and Sex Education, supported by the RE leader and PSHE Leader. The majority of lessons take place within the usual class organisation and are taught in the summer term.

The RE leader plans and co-ordinates the teaching of 'Ten: Ten Life to the Full' alongside the class teachers and there are opportunities for pupil groupings to reflect the needs of the pupils' e.g. single gender; individual; access to same gender staff; where appropriate.

Parents are invited to information meetings where they can become more familiar with the structure and content of the programme, as well as asking questions. All parents are given log-in details so they can access the lessons from home, as well as accessing parental support materials provided by Ten:Ten. Teachers send a week-by-week overview of upcoming lessons, so that parents are aware of weeks where sensitive topics are taught and discussed in class, so that they may further support their child at home.

Impact

As a result of well-planned and sensitively delivered RSE rooted firmly in Catholic teaching, our pupils will be prepared for the changes and that lie ahead as they move from childhood through adolescence and into adulthood. They will be equipped to understand and confidently navigate the physical, emotional, social and moral challenges that they may face, underpinned by the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Teachers and school leaders monitor the effective teaching of RSE through pupil self-assessment, peer-group assessment and teacher assessment (see also our Assessment policy). 'Life to the Full' contains assessment activities so that teachers can monitor progress and attainment in all yeargroups .

It is the responsibility of the RE leader to monitor provision for and impact of RSE throughout the school and provide feedback to the class teachers, parents and governors.