

Mission Statement

In Christ We Grow – As a learning community we live out our Mission Statement striving for excellence through caring, sharing and achieving.

PHILOSOPHY

As a learning community we live out our Mission Statement striving for excellence through caring, sharing and achieving. As one community we seek to create a learning community where relationships are based on the example of Christ and an ethos in which self-discipline, mutual respect, courtesy and diversity are respected enabling our students to be ready for the challenge of making a positive contribution to society.

The Relationships and Sex Education Policy at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College is rooted in the Christian faith and in the college's perception of the needs of all, where individuals are respected and valued on an equal basis. Our students come from a wide variety of faith, social and family backgrounds which incorporate both single and dual parent families and carers. This diversity is respected.

Our policy uses the Catholic Education Service's recommended terminology - Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) rather than Relationships and Sex Education (SRE) - since this emphasises the importance of healthy relationships to human well-being, as the core learning within the RSE curriculum.

We believe that relationships and sex education begins and continues from infancy at home, as part of the Parent-Child relationship. We believe that Parents are the prime educators in this regard, throughout the natural development of the individual up to and including the teenage years and into adulthood, and that consequently, our role is to support and develop that process in the secondary education phase of each pupil's development.

Parents/Carers may, if they wish, withdraw their son/daughter from all or part of the sex education provided in the EPR Programme. There is no requirement for Parents to provide a reason for withdrawal of their son/daughter from EPR sessions relating to sex education.

We believe that Relationships and Sex Education is important in promoting and empowering the spiritual, moral and cultural development of our students, as well as helping them to understand their developing bodies, feelings and emotions. At Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College, Relationships and Sex Education is taught in the context of relationships and encouraging respect and tolerance for self and others. The programme concerns the whole person and is developmental, covering many aspects across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

We support the Archdiocese of Liverpool Relationships and Sex Education Policy Guidelines recognising the importance of teaching all our students about the 'role and importance of marriage in family relationships', and the wider commitment to the enduring values of truth, justice, honesty, trust and sense of duty'. We believe that marriage is the best context for family life and to bring up children. However, we accept that teaching within this area 'needs to be sensitive so as not to stigmatise children on the basis of home circumstances' (DFES guidance on Relationships and Sex Education 2000).

AIMS FOR RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

We believe that Relationships and Sex Education is part of the wider responsibility of the school to help all to develop, following the example of Christ and is an integral part of the learning process that begins in childhood and continues into adult life. We believe that all Relationships and Sex Education needs to be kept in line with the Catholic Ethos of the school whilst still acknowledging the world in which our students live.

Relationships and Sex Education is part of the wider ethos and responsibility of the school to help all to develop following the example of Christ. Therefore, we aim to present the facts of Relationships and Sex Education in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner and to set them within a clear moral structure.

Through the college's Relationship and Sex Education Policy, we further aim to promote and foster within all our students.

- Attitudes and concern for others; founded on Christ's example of self-giving love.
- To encourage their own personal responsibility in all forms of behaviour, and to encourage a positive and secure personal identity and a sense of their own value.
- Self-esteem, and respect for self and others.
- Acceptance of those who differ, yet challenging those behaviours and attitudes which exploit others and do not reflect Christian values.
- To encourage an appreciation of the value of family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood.
- To provide support and information for young people and their parents/carers.
- Reconciliation and forgiveness following the example of Christ
- An appreciation that sexual feelings and activity are an integral part of being human and an expression of God's creative love.
- The knowledge and understanding of changes to their bodies, feeling and instincts and those of the opposite sex as they enter puberty, so that they develop an accurate and acceptable vocabulary and appropriate expression of this. Therefore enabling them to identify what constitutes abuse and to know what they should do about it.
- To promote and encourage a sense of self-respect and personal values in all students regardless of their religious, family and cultural background.

ORGANISATION OF SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION

The responsibility for the delivery of Sex and Relationships Education is a whole college matter. However, its organisation and monitoring will be overseen by the Relationships and Sex Education Working Party overseen by Mrs Poskitt, Pastoral Quality Assurance Manager. Delivery is through planned aspects within the whole school curriculum. This may be taught by individuals within the subject areas or by teachers who may decide to work on a team-teaching basis. There may be times when gender groups may need to work alone and other times when students may be grouped according to their development and maturity. All teachers undertaking the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education can expect to do so with the support of colleagues in school and receive training either in-house or on external courses as necessary.

A variety of teaching approaches are used to give students relevant information; to enable moral issues to be explored through discussion and to acquire necessary skills. Details of methodology can be seen in the programmes of study. The 'Retreat days' for students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 include: growing up, friendships, growing responsibilities and teenage problems, and would form part of the focus of the day. As a school we promote positive choices and forming relationships with people as part of our curriculum.

Students are taught in a variety of grouping, e.g. mixed ability, gender groups, year groups, and mixed year groups (during form time). However, when there is a specific need, arrangements will be made to teach students in appropriate groupings.

Assemblies/Retreats and form time also cover the following interconnecting themes:

Relationships, choices, consequences, risks, diversity, gifts, setting example, respect, caring, staying safe, racism, anti-bullying, working together, being healthy, good news, drugs awareness, giving our best, self-awareness, calculated risks, reconciliation, charity, overcoming difficulties, keeping fit, globalisation, building community, environment, having values, self-reflection, looking to the future, stereotyping, gender issues and role models.

The Relationships and Sex Education at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College is arranged so that the styles of classroom activities reflect the students' spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional development and maturity. This enables issues to be raised within the classroom environment, before students pick up messages from the media and through social experience which may be generally of a kind that the college might wish to challenge.

The schemes of work contain factual information that must be accurate and sensitively conveyed, but the general approach involves students in discussions wherever possible. This involves a range of DVDs/video clips, reference work and other visual and factual material which is used to provide variety and balance. These schemes follow Archdiocesan and DFE guidelines.

The normal programme for EPR covers aspects of developing self-esteem, good relationships with others, taking responsibility, and peer group and other pressures. This is intended to reinforce specific work on sexual relationships. Visiting speakers, including outside health professionals, are used to support the delivery of this programme by presenting to single or mixed gender groups.

As a Catholic school, committed to the education of the whole person, teaching on relationships and sexuality is to be reflected in each relevant part of the curriculum. The teaching of apparently unrelated topics in other subject areas will occasionally lead to a discussion of aspects of sexual behaviour. Teachers will draw upon their professional judgement and common-sense to deal appropriately with the needs of any individual pupil or groups of pupils and students. College staff will refer any matters as necessary to others within the College, to Parents or to outside agencies.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND GENDER ROLES

Students shall experience a programme of Sex and Relationships Education and personal development at a level commensurate with their intellectual abilities and physical developments. No student shall be prevented by ability, age, gender or social circumstances from taking advantage of the learning experiences offered at this school.

The college endeavours to familiarise students with ways in which perceptions of gender difference is in keeping with the Archdiocesan guidelines, with the emphasis on the Christian view of each individual as created in God's image precluding any form of prejudice, discrimination or stereotyping which would deny that unique individual's worth.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

The following issues may occur as part of education. Staff, parents and students need to understand the College's procedures.

a) Confidentiality and Advice

Students will be made aware that some information cannot be held in confidence and they will be made to understand that if certain disclosures are made, college safeguarding procedures must be followed. Students will be offered sensitive and appropriate support by the College's safeguarding officers or appropriate outside agencies on their advice. The following procedures will be adhered to by all adults.

i) Disclosure or suspicion of possible abuse:-

The College's Safeguarding Procedures will be invoked (see relevant policy).

ii) Disclosure of pregnancy or advice on contraception:-

The school will always encourage and help students to talk with their parents carers first. Help in talking to parents may be offered but the subsequent responsibility then lies with the parents. Any students who are in difficulty know that they can talk to an appropriate adult in school and that they will be supported. Individual advice on contraception should not be given by teachers.

SENSITIVE ISSUES REQUIRING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

As a Church College, one of the aims of our Relationships and Sex Education Programme is to provide opportunities for students to "talk honestly and openly". We respect the fact that parents/carers may wish to withdraw their child from a number of issues or controversial subjects relating to the Sex and Relationships Education Programme. In this school we support and promote the teachings of the Catholic Church as laid down by Archdiocesan guidelines.

PROCEDURES FOR POLICY MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Relationships and Sex Education will be monitored by the Mrs Poskitt, Pastoral Quality Assurance Manager and a nominated governor. An annual report will be made to the Governors. If a member of staff is unsure about techniques which can be utilised to answer difficult questions they can refer back to the Headteacher, Mrs Poskitt, Pastoral Quality Assurance Manager or one of the appointed safeguarding members of staff.

DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY

All staff members and Governors receive a copy of this policy. A copy of this policy is also available on the school website. The Policy and full Programmes of Study are available upon request to parents, the LA, OFSTED and the Archdiocesan representative through the Headteacher and Mrs Poskitt, Pastoral Quality Assurance Manager .

OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES

Other policies that have relevance to Sex and Relationships Education are:

- Single Equality
- Anti-Bullying
- Safeguarding

- PSHE
- SMSC

Approved by Governors

Reviewed July 2006

Reviewed July 2009

Reviewed Sept 2010

Reviewed 2013

Reviewed 2014

Reviewed Sept 2017

Revised Sept 2018