

The John Fisher School is an inclusive and diverse environment. There are students, staff and parents/carers who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. This is reflective of a modern contemporary society which will be apparent in all Catholic Schools across the UK. The John Fisher School is currently celebrating diversity through literature which has included such events as Black History month readings, visit from the author Tom Palmer discussing his book *After the War* to tie in with Holocaust Memorial Day, virtual visit from author Michael Rosen to discuss disability and Covid Recovery and a Q&A with Elle McNicoll on her book *A Kind of Spark* which features an autistic main character. This was also to have included a visit from an author who wrote about LGBT+ relationships.

The John Fisher School is a Roman Catholic school that operates within the RSHE statutory guidance provided by the DfE (outlined below) and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

*20. In all schools, when teaching these subjects, the religious background of all pupils must be taken into account when planning teaching, so that the topics that are included in the core content in this guidance are appropriately handled. Schools must ensure they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010, under which religion or belief are amongst the protected characteristics.*

*21. All schools may teach about faith perspectives. In particular, schools with a religious character may teach the distinctive faith perspective on relationships, and balanced debate may take place about issues that are seen as contentious. For example, 13 the school may wish to reflect on faith teachings about certain topics as well as how their faith institutions may support people in matters of relationships and sex (Page 12).*

*37. At the point at which schools consider it appropriate to teach their pupils about LGBT, they should ensure that this content is fully integrated into their programmes of study for this area of the curriculum rather than delivered as a standalone unit or lesson. Schools are free to determine how they do this, and we expect all pupils to have been taught LGBT content at a timely point as part of this area of the curriculum (Page 15).*

The new Governing Board recognises the professional integrity and competence of all staff at The John Fisher School. We also recognise the operational responsibility of the literacy team to continue to organise visits by authors who write about all relationships (e.g. heterosexual, LGBT+ etc.), relevant to these year groups which *complements* the statutory RSHE curriculum, the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and within the schools due diligence procedures in respect of visits.

With this understanding, the senior leadership team alongside the literacy team will organise the visit of an author whose writing includes LGBT+ relationships, at the same time as a supplementary literacy activity to enable parental discretion. This is to be an event in the upcoming academic year within a series of events about the celebration of diversity within literature and with the educational outcome of fostering a love of reading.