



# **The John Fisher School**

## **Education in Human Love Policy**

**Responsible:** Governors' SLAW Committee

**Next Review Date:** October 2023

Nurturing young Catholic gentlemen  
Aspiring for Academic, Cultural & Sporting Excellence

## **Introduction**

The John Fisher School exists as a distinct community because it has Christ at its centre. His teaching and example are the basis for daily life, relationships and aspirations. We meet Christ in all aspects of the life of the school and the spiritual dimension underpins all our work. The attitudes and values of the school are those of Christ's command to 'love one another as I have loved you' (John 13; 34), where this love means growing in the ability to love God, oneself and others.

This policy has been written with reference to the Diocesan Policy for Relationships and Sex Education and seeks to provide a 'positive and prudent sex education' to students as they grow older so that their sexuality may be directed through a process of growth in self-knowledge and self-control to enable them to have a capacity for joy and fulfilment.

As a Catholic school, our formation in this area is based on our faith in God who reveals himself in Jesus Christ and seeks to foster understanding of respectful and loving relationships including friendships, marriage and family life.

The Church stipulates that parents/carers are the prime educators of their children. Parents/carers will be informed in advance of the timing of sex education sessions and may view on request any materials used. Parents/carers have a statutory right to withdraw their children from any sex education outside the National Curriculum requirements. The parents/carers of Year 7 students are invited to a presentation on Education in Human Love on the first weekend when they join the school.

## **Legal Requirements**

This policy is in accordance with the Diocesan Policy for Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, the Equality Act (2010), The Learning and Skills Act (2000) and the Marriage Act 2013.

The statutory requirements relating to RSHE are contained within different parts of United Kingdom legislation. They can be summarised as follows:

- All maintained primary and secondary schools must teach the RSHE elements of the National Curriculum Science Order.
- All maintained secondary schools must provide RSHE as part of the basic curriculum.
- All maintained primary and secondary schools must have an up to date policy for RSHE.
- Parents/carers have a right to withdraw their children from all or part of the sex education provided, but not from the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction as required by the National Curriculum Science Order.

The Learning and Skills Act 2000 requires that:

- Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any Education in Human Love provision except the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction necessary under the National Curriculum Science Order.
- Young people learn about the nature of marriage and its importance for family life and the bringing up of children.

- Young people are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate, having regard to age and cultural background.
- When providing Education in Human Love, schools have regard to the Department for Education on Relationship and Sexual Education Guidance.

Students must be aware that the Marriage Act 2013 extends civil marriage to same sex couples in England and Wales. Nothing in the act affects a Catholic school's right to teach on marriage or on same sex relationships in accordance with the norms of the Catholic Church, as long as this is done in an appropriate and sensitive way.

## **Roles**

The RSHE Lead has overall responsibility, and works in collaboration with the Headteacher and Link Governor, as well as the Assistant Headteacher responsible for Science, the Assistant Headteacher responsible for Catholic Life and the Assistant Headteacher responsible for RSHE.

## **Aims of Education in Human Love**

Education in Human Love aims to secure 'an adequate knowledge of the nature and importance of sexuality and of the harmonious and integral development of the person towards psychological maturity, with full spiritual maturity in view, to which all believers are called'. Educational Guidance in Human Love 1983.

'It is about the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.' Department for Education Sex and Relationship Guidance 2000.

Education in Human Love provision must keep in mind that students have not yet attained full maturity and deliver information at a proper time and in a way suited to their age. The John Fisher School provides positive, integrated and prudent sexual education which is compatible with the physical and psychological maturity of students.

The three cornerstone principles are:

1. Clear, accurate and sound knowledge
2. Specific, forthright and clear reference to Church teachings
3. Age appropriate instruction with an awareness of child development

Education in Human Love is a journey into the very essence of what it means to love as a person who is made in the image and likeness of God who is love. It involves the integration of sexuality within the life of a person so that they may live life to the full. The school, together with the Catholic Church, understands marriage to be a mutual commitment of total fidelity which is open to life.

Education in Human Love will prepare students for an adult life in which they can:

- Value the beauty and purpose of their God given sexuality.
- Develop positive attitudes and a moral framework that will guide their judgements, decisions and behaviour.
- Understand the arguments for reserving sexual activity until marriage.

- Understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly within sexual and pastoral relationships.
- Have the confidence and self-esteem to value themselves and others.
- Communicate effectively.
- Avoid being exploited or exploiting others.
- Know how the law applies to sexual relationships.

Sex education will be taught within the context of relationships and within the wider context of the whole curriculum with Catholic moral and spiritual foundations at the centre of all teaching. All subjects have a role to play and all members of the school community, by virtue of the relationships they foster within the school, contribute to education in sexuality for which clear guidance is given.

### **Objectives of Education in Human Love**

- To provide knowledge and understanding of the Church's teaching on relationships and sexual love.
- To provide a positive understanding of what constitutes good and loving relationships.
- To provide a knowledge and understanding of the biological facts about human reproduction.
- To provide students with the inner strength to make sound, moral choices in a culture which may pressurise them to be sexually active.
- To provide an understanding of sexual health including sexually transmitted infections.
- To provide a clear understanding of the Catholic Church's teaching on fertility and human love and the Church's teaching to reserve sexual intercourse for marriage.

### **Responsibility and Resources**

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body, working with the Headteacher and the RSHE Lead, to ensure that Education in Human Love is in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church and to ensure that this is achieved through careful monitoring of resources. The following should be taken into account:

- Parents/carers need support through a provision that is faithful to the Church's teaching and is age-appropriate.
- The extent to which resources illustrate the beauty of the human being created by God.
- The values which are implied by a resource and the way they enhance students' understanding of human development and Catholic teaching.
- The accuracy and clarity of what is being presented.

### **Content**

Education in Human Love provides knowledge and information, encourages the acquisition of skills and the consideration of attitudes and values which will allow students to manage their lives in a responsible and healthy way.

## **1. Knowledge and Information**

Students should know:

- The characteristics of positive and healthy friendships in all contexts, including online, such as: trust, respect, honesty, kindness, generosity, boundaries, privacy, consent and the management of conflict -reconciliation and ending relationships, this includes different (nonsexual) types of relationships.
- Practical steps they can take in a range of different contexts to improve or support respectful relationships.
- How stereotypes, in particular stereotypes based on sex, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or disability, can cause damage (for example, how they might normalise non-consensual behaviour or encourage prejudice).
- That in school and in wider society they can expect to be treated with respect by others, and that in turn they should show due respect to others, including people in positions of authority and due tolerance of other people's beliefs.
- About different types of bullying (including cyberbullying), the impact of bullying, responsibilities of bystanders to report bullying and how and where to get help.
- That some types of behaviour within relationships are criminal, including violent behaviour and coercive control.
- What constitutes sexual harassment and sexual violence and why these are always unacceptable.
- The legal rights and responsibilities regarding equality (particularly with reference to the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010) and that everyone is unique and equal.

## **2. Skills and Abilities**

Students will be helped to develop a range of personal and social skills needed for relationships with family and friends including:

- Negotiation skills
- Decision making skills
- Assertiveness skills
- Listening skills
- Being able to recognise and resist pressure
- Being able to discuss relationships
- Dealing with loss, separation and/or bereavement
- Skills in challenging prejudice
- Recognising and using opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle

## **Statutory Requirements**

1. The mission and ethos of The John Fisher School is made explicit in all aspects of the RSHE programme. Every aspect has been reviewed to reflect the most recent statutory guidance.

2. Schools are required to consult with parents/carers when developing and reviewing their policies for Relationships Education. What is taught is ultimately a decision for the school informed by the views of parents/carers.
3. Parents/carers have a right to withdraw their son from sex education, but not from Relationships Education or the Science curriculum. In addition, there is a provision for a young person to choose not to be withdrawn three terms before they turn 16.