

St Bede's Catholic College



Policy on Education for Personal Relationships

Policy on Education for Personal Relationships

Rationale

Love is at the centre of the relationship between God and individual members of His family, the human race. It is essential therefore, that positive, person-centred education is at the heart of Catholic teaching relating to personal development and growth.

Sexuality is a gift from God which finds its full and proper expression in the love shared within a marriage. It is in this way that we participate in God's creation.

Conscious of the importance of education for personal relationships, aspects of our sex education programme are covered in a number of faculties simultaneously in order that pupils are provided with factual information in a sensitive manner within the context of the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Aims

St. Bede's Catholic College seeks to support the personal, moral, social and spiritual development of all young people by:

- encouraging them to see the development of relationships as part of their growth in spiritual life.
- ensuring that they have the ability to accept their own and others' sexuality in positive ways.
- enabling them to form relationships based on mutual respect, dignity and responsibility free from any abuse.
- ensuring that they receive a positive and prudent education in matters related to sex.
- enabling them to make sound moral judgements based on a well-informed conscience
- encouraging them to exercise self-discipline and self-control.
- encouraging them to listen, to love and to develop compassion and tenderness.
- providing them with factual information relating to the development of the body.

Guidelines

The Governors of the college are responsible for Education for Personal Relationships. A senior member of staff is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the programme. All education in personal relationships will be guided by the teachings of the Church.

Education for personal relationships permeates all our work with our young people and will be explicitly addressed in the areas of Religious Education, Science, Personal Social and Health Education and Physical Education. The Governors believe that it is in the pupils' best interest to participate fully in this programme. Parents of Year 7 children will be informed annually about the programme in the Autumn term.

Parents are entitled by law to withdraw their child from aspects of the programme which are not included in the National Curriculum. However, in order for children to understand this information in context and to be given an opportunity to explore the issues involved, the Governors would strongly recommend that pupils are allowed to participate fully in all aspects of the programme.

"...children and young people should be helped to develop harmoniously their physical, moral and intellectual qualities they should receive a positive and prudent education in matters relating to sex ... young people have the right to be stimulated to make sound moral judgements based on a well-informed conscience and to put them into practice with a sense of personal commitment...."

*Gravissimum Educationis (para 3)
Second Vatican Council*

Procedure

Education for Personal Relationships is an element within the Personal Social and Health Education Programme and also within the Religious Formation and Science Programmes of Study. Details of content can be found in the relevant Handbooks.

Conclusion

This policy has been drawn up in consultation with staff and has been endorsed by the Governing Body. It is reviewed on a regular basis.

September 2019

