

ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION POLICY



Mission Statement

St. Anne's Catholic High School for Girls will offer a positive presence in Enfield with a comprehensive curriculum delivered in modern facilities, equipping students with the ability to meet the challenges of the 21st Century confidently and with high spiritual and moral standards,

We recognise that students, parents, staff and governors make up the school's community which will continually self-evaluate to improve itself effectively and efficiently in all aspects of its growth.

We are a fully inclusive, Catholic girl's secondary school meeting high academic standards, promoting spirituality, pastoral care and the Catholic community.

We recognise in all our relationships the dignity and value of each person showing one another mutual acceptance and respect.

'Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with your God.'

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Introduction – What is SRE?

- It is a lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development
- It is about the importance, of family life, of marriage, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care
- It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health
- It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity
- SRE has three main elements – attitudes and values, personal and social skills, knowledge and understanding

Education is about the growth and development of the whole person. It should aim to integrate a student's intellectual, spiritual, moral, emotional, psychological development thus assisting progress towards Christian Maturity. This is in line with St. Anne's Mission Statement, which states that:

'We are an inclusive, Roman Catholic Girls Secondary School meeting high academic standards, promoting spirituality, pastoral care and the Catholic ethos.

We recognise in all our relationships the dignity and value of each person, showing one another mutual acceptance and respect.'

In implementing our Mission Statement St. Anne's aims to ensure that the students develop a sound understanding of the teachings of the Church and the values of the Gospel. Sex Education in a Catholic School aims to present to the young a vision and ideal of sexuality that is fully human.

All maintained Secondary Schools have a statutory duty to ensure that a programme of SRE (including information about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases) is being delivered to all registered students. In accordance with the most recent 2014 DFE endorsed guidance, issued to supplement the 2000 SRE guidance and ensure 2010 Equality Act is reflected, SRE and PSHE education should encourage young people to adopt healthy lifestyles and safe practices.

Apart from the legal requirements from Central Government, the Catholic Church also requires priority to be given to the development of a catechesis of life and marriage so that our young people will be able to form mature attitudes towards sex and marriage. In order for this to happen they should, as they advance in years be given positive and prudent sexual education (Gravissun Educattionis 1965).

Sex and relationship education is an important part of the Personal, Social and Health Education programme at St. Anne's, but as SRE should be centred on the whole person it is also part of a whole school approach.

Rationale

This statement sets out the commitment of the school to:

- Further develop and promote the SRE programme in the context of the family and Christian morality.
- Deliver the acquisition of knowledge and skills, which will enable the students to achieve self-esteem and enhance their personal relationships and deepen their awareness of God's gifts.
- Ensure that the student understand the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle and safe practices including possible consequences and health risks of sexual activity (HIV/AIDS) while promoting tolerance and sympathy for those who are suffering the effects.

Aims

The programme of SRE learning activities provided by the school will aim to:

- Enable all students to develop a sound understanding of the teachings of the Catholic Church and the values of the Gospel in relation to SRE.
- Equip students with the biological facts of puberty and reproduction with an understanding of the expression of love in both sexual and non-sexual ways.
- Take account of the moral, spiritual, personal, social and spiritual development of the students and the influence of ethnicity, the teenage subculture, the mass culture and the world in which our young people live.

Objectives

1. Delivery of key elements

The key elements as outlined in the statutory requirements from Government and the requirements of the Catholic Church in relation to SRE, namely:

- To have an awareness of where the young people are, in their knowledge and understanding of human sexuality so that their needs and concerns can be identified and addressed.
- To facilitate in the students the development of self love and self worth as creatures made in the image and likeness of God.
- To bring about in them an understanding of the emotional, moral, spiritual, social and personal aspects of human sexuality.
- To enable the young people to effectively evaluate the values of the modern world in general and their teenage subculture in particular with regard to human sexuality especially as portrayed in the mass media.
- To help them to resist the pressures this puts upon them by using the teachings of the Church as a critical guide in promoting Gospel Values.
- To bring about an awareness of the issues surrounding birth control and abortion so that they may be able to understand both sides of the argument whilst trying to remain faithful to the teachings of the Church.
- To enable the students to develop an understanding of love as central to meaningful human relationships and the way this is expressed in marriage and

other kinds of relationships and states of life such as the priesthood and religious life.

- To bring about a deeper appreciation of the importance of the family as the basic unit of society and of the values of family life while appreciating the varied forms the family can take in the modern world. To bring about an in depth understanding of the Catholic Sacrament of Marriage as a covenant and sign of the relationship between God and the world through Jesus Christ and an awareness of the problems and pitfalls of marriage such as adultery, divorce and childlessness.
- To give clear guidance to students in respect of the Children's Act of 1989 with particular regard to their personal safety in the matter of physical and sexual abuse.
- To give knowledge of all sexually transmitted diseases particularly but not exclusively HIV/AIDS.
- To impart full knowledge and understanding of the details of puberty and human procreation in their physical as well as emotional, spiritual and moral aspects.
- To enable students to have a full understanding of their physical and emotional development; to be aware of their attitudes and values and have a sense of responsibility of themselves.
- To enable students to reflect on their relationships and recognise the qualities that help relationships to grow and develop positively.
- To equip young Catholics with the insight and knowledge to enter the world and make free, informed and morally guided choices in the matter of human sexuality so as not to damage themselves and others but rather bring about happiness and fulfilment.

2. Legal Requirements

St. Anne's will ensure that it meets the legal requirements especially with regard to informing parents of the SRE programme in case they wish to exercise their right to withdraw their daughter from the sex education part of the programme.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONITORING & EVALUATION

DATE ESTABLISHED BY GOVERNING BODY: (ADOPTED) **January 2009**

DATE REVIEWED: **Spring Term 2016**

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: **Review as necessary**

RESPONSIBILITY: **Whole School CPSHE Lead**