



**ST. THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL  
ACADEMY**

**Statutory Sex and Relationship Education Policy**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACCEPTED/UPDATED/REVIEWED</b>	<b>BY WHOM</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	Reviewed – agreed	CACE Committee
4 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Accepted	Full Governing Body
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3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019	Approved	LGC

Mrs Nuala Kelsey-Cashell  
Chair of the Governing Body

**The School's Mission Statement**

To inspire,

To learn,

To achieve,

To keep our Catholic ethos at the centre of our lives,

To fulfil our educational potential, welcoming all and reaching out to the wider world,

To truly be God's servant first.

## **Introduction**

### **What does outstanding Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) in Catholic school look like?**

In order for Catholic SRE to be fully effective it needs to:

- provide a positive view of human sexuality and dignity of the human person;
- equip young people with the ability to make practical judgments about the right thing to do in particular circumstances;
- explore and promote virtues which are essential to promoting respect and dignity;
- be delivered in an age appropriate way which reflects the development of the child;
- be part of the cross-curricular work in secondary schools;
- be sensitive to the needs of the individual pupil and recognise the mix of pupils with different sexual orientations, genders and family backgrounds in each class;
- be delivered by competent professionals who understand the Church's teaching.

### **Basic Principles of SRE in Catholic schools**

Catholic schools, like all other schools in England, are required to produce a written policy following the guidance issued by the Department for Education on Sex and Relationship Education (SRE). The DfE guidance can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sex-and-relationship-education>. Catholic schools are also required to deliver SRE in accordance with the teaching of the Church. This approach is compatible with the guidance issued by the DfE.

### **Why is SRE in Catholic Schools important?**

SRE is part of the mission of Catholic schools to educate the whole person. It should be carried out as part of the holistic education which seeks to form as well as inform young people in preparation for adult life.

### **The aims of Catholic RSE are:**

1. To give young people a basic knowledge of the facts concerning development at puberty and the transmission of life in human beings.
2. To foster an understanding of the emotional, moral, religious and social implications of these for the individual, the family, the Church and society at large.
3. To foster an understanding of family relationships, of the nature of love and of the importance of marriage and the family; as well as the value of celibacy. CCC 2337-2345
4. To give our students an opportunity to explore their feelings, attitudes and values, to help them to appreciate their responsibilities to themselves and to examine how to control their emotions and instincts; to assist them to make responsible choices on the basis of Catholic Christian principles.

The teaching of sex and relationship education takes place mostly within the RE, CPSHE and Science Departments. The long-standing tradition of co-operation between these three is recognised. Students are progressively introduced to material chosen to match their age and development, and work undertaken in the CPSHE and RE is mirrored by what is done in Science. Particular care is taken to ensure that education in sexual matters arises naturally out of the general syllabus followed in these departments; where such issues arise in any other departments it is the responsibility of that department to ensure that the Catholic viewpoint is clearly taught. In this way we affirm that our sexuality is an ordinary, natural and God-given part of our lives.

### **What we teach and when:**

A plan showing the progressive delivery of the programme appears below. In choosing teaching materials, great care is taken to be loyal to the teaching of the Church and to meet the students' needs. Further details of specific lessons are available on request.

#### **Year 7**

Pupils are taught the basic facts of human reproduction within the context of family life, belonging and love in a family, community and Church, the sacraments – marriage, our values, friendships, bullying, different forms of relationships for example in the home and how we should relate to each other

#### **Year 8**

Being made in God's image, Genetics, Production of gametes, Hormones, Cloning and Genetic Modification and Ethics, divided families, friends and relationships, relationships with older people

#### **Year 9**

Christian morality, the commandments, abortion, conscience, sacrament of marriage, and vocations. Marriage: as friendship and 'forever' sacrament, and the only place for sexual intercourse; the meaning of marital sexual intercourse; teenage marriage and its dangers, Respecting ourselves and our sexuality: making decision, Conscience and its growth, especially in relation to sexual matters. Puberty and developing a moral sense, adolescence, HIV, dealing with loss

#### **Years 10 & 11**

The Church's teaching on the following areas is studied in detail:

Marriage: the ideal of marriage, Roman Catholic teaching with reference to sexual relationships outside marriage, responsible parenthood, marital breakdown and annulment.

Christian healing: sanctity of human life, abortion, contraception and in vitro fertilisation.

There is further teaching in Science on human reproduction with reference to fertility treatment and contraception. The processes and ethics of assisted conception, genetic engineering, screening of embryos and cloning are also discussed. In addition to this, the identification and effect of recreational drugs on the body is also covered.

In CPSHE students look at the different forms of relationships, what we view as good and bad relationships, including what we should expect and what is expected from us in the different types of relationships. Rights and responsibilities, becoming an adult, emotions and moods, offensive behaviour. Students have a session about sexually transmitted infections (HIV & Chlamydia), and

testicular cancer with an outside speaker. These topics are covered with sensitivity to Church teaching on contraception and promiscuity. This happens in the summer term and is led by the HoD of CPSHE. In Year 11 topics include parenthood, commitment, mental health.

### **Years 12 & 13**

As part of the General RE programme in the sixth form students are taught the underlying principles of the Church, included in: “Living in responsible loving relationships”, emphasis is placed on spiritual, physical & intellectual, social & emotional growth.

The school nurse is also available for confidential drop-in session times on a weekly basis.

Any Sex and Relationship Education, whether or not it is part of the National Curriculum should be given in such a manner as to encourage pupils and students to have due regard to moral considerations and the value of family life.

Apart from the legal requirements from central government, the Catholic Church has given firm guidance to schools in the matter of moral and sexual education. Priority must be given “to the development in our schools of a catechesis of life and marriage” so that “young people will be able to form mature attitudes towards sex and marriage.”<sup>1</sup>

**Parents have the statutory right to withdraw their children from any or all parts of a school's programme of sex education, other than those elements which are required by the National Curriculum Science order. Any parents wishing to avail themselves of this right should inform the school, in writing.**

**Updated March 2017**

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<sup>1</sup> See Southwark Diocesan Policy on Marriage, also the Catholic Bishops' statements of 1987 and 1994 and the document “Education in Sexuality” 1994 (CES), at magisterial level, “Gravissimum Educationis” 1965 and more recently “Educational Guidance in Human Love” 1983 and the Catholic Catechism (1994) para 2331 – 2391 which is especially helpful on Sexuality, Marriage and Chastity.