



ST BENET BISCOP
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

ST BENET BISCOP CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL A Co-operative Business & Enterprise College

SEX AND RELATIONSHIP POLICY

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In St Benet Biscop Catholic High School a Business and Enterprise College, we promote the unique gift of each individual as a child of God, unconditionally loved and valued. It is within this context that we educate our young people to engage in appropriate relationships, which reflect their own worth and self-respect, alongside an openness and awareness of the need to live in relationship with others.
- 1.2 This policy must be viewed in the context of all other school policies and practice. Our intention is that SRE is not a discrete subject area but as an integral, constant and essential part of our mission as a Christian school.

2 PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 Working within the framework of the school mission statement of:
Learning to value
Learning to give
Learning to achieve
Growing in the peace of Christ
- 2.2 We recognise that young people are entitled to responsible and relevant sex and relationship education as a key element of personal, social, spiritual and moral education.
- 2.3 The parents/carers carry the main responsibility for the religious, spiritual, sexual and moral education of their children and the school seeks to work in partnership with them.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The school aims to foster the development of all aspects of the individual child within the context of a Christian/Catholic community. Sex and relationships education is seen as an integral part of the physical, intellectual, spiritual and moral development the school strives to promote and encourage.
- 3.2 The school therefore aims:
- 3.2.1 To promote the value of appropriate, responsible sexual behaviour within marriage, leading to responsible parenthood
- 3.2.2 To promote understanding and tolerance of responsible sexual attitudes and behaviour
- 3.2.3 To assist the development of informed, reasoned and responsible decisions within a moral context which takes into account the needs of others as well as their own
- 3.2.4 To help develop self-esteem and self-confidence in young people as the foundation for responsible and caring relationships
- 3.2.5 To ensure knowledge of the relevant law
- 3.2.6 To help young people be clear, positive and confident about the physical, emotional and moral aspects of sexual maturity

4 DEFINITION OF SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

- 4.1 SRE is '*lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage and family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health.*' (SRE Guidance, DFEE0115/2000, para.9 page 5). It is also about the development of a student's knowledge and understanding of him/herself as a sexual being, about what it means to be fully



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human, called to live in a right relationship with oneself, others and the whole of God's creation and being enabled to make moral decisions according to an informed conscience.

5 RATIONALE

- 5.1 From the DFEE document, para.2 page 3 – *'The objective of SRE is to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development. A successful program, firmly embedded in PSHE will help young people learn to respect themselves and others and move with confidence from childhood to adolescence into adulthood'*.
- 5.2 At the Second Vatican Council the Bishops were more specific and asked that, *'(Young people) should be trained to acquire gradually a more perfect sense of responsibility in the proper development of their own lives by constant effort a positive and in the pursuit of liberty....As they grow older, they should receive a positive and prudent sex education.'* (Gravissimum Educationis, para.1) It is important that we are clear about what this means for SRE.
- 5.3 Our approach to SRE will be a 'positive' one because each one of us is made in God's image and likeness and found by God 'to be very good'. Our approach will also be a 'prudent' one in the sense that prudence is sometimes called the 'know-how' virtue. It is this we wish to develop in our students – the ability to make practical judgments about what is the right thing to do in particular circumstances. A prudent SRE, then, is designed to empower our pupils to make good decisions. This can only be done when it is based on accurate knowledge and set in a framework that acknowledges the fundamental goodness of all of God's creation.
- 5.4 The aim, therefore, of a 'positive and prudent' education in sexuality is to make real and to celebrate the beauty of God's creation and to enable students to make good decisions about their sexuality.

6 OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The objectives of SRE will be:
- 6.1.1 To present clearly a Christian, sexual ethic based on the teaching and wisdom of the Church.
- 6.1.2 To encourage the development of a personal, moral code rooted in Gospel values and to promote self-confidence and self-esteem.
- 6.1.3 To consider personal attitudes, make informed, reasoned and responsible decisions according to an informed conscience about the attitudes they will adopt both in school and adult life.
- 6.1.4 To encourage student growth in self-respect, dignity, self-restraint and respect for others acknowledging that all are created in the image and likeness of God.
- 6.1.5 To help students develop an understanding that love is central to the basis of relationships and family life.
- 6.1.6 To encourage students to reflect on their own relationships in order to develop an understanding of themselves, their sexuality and that of others so that their attitudes associated with sexual activity are caring and responsible.
- 6.1.7 To ensure that students appreciate the benefits of a stable married life and the responsibilities of parenthood.
- 6.1.8 To help students recognise the physical, emotional and moral risks of casual and promiscuous sexual behaviour.
- 6.1.9 To present fact in an objective and balanced manner and to use appropriate terminology to enable students to discuss issues without embarrassment of fear or ridicule.
- 6.1.10 To develop an awareness of an individual's legal obligation regarding sexual behaviour.



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7 PROGRAM OF STUDY

- 7.1 The aims and objectives are reflected in the topics covered at each Key Stage. This is reviewed regularly and changes are made in response to the needs of students. The Programme is delivered primarily through RE with limited input through PSHEE and Science.

8 KEY STAGE 3

- 8.1 Understanding the Catholic teaching on Human Sexuality
8.2 Self- Esteem
8.3 Assertiveness
8.4 Personal Values
8.5 Human Reproduction
8.6 Choices and Consequences including pregnancy and STIs
8.7 In accordance with the teaching of the Church – contraception.

9 KEY STAGE 4

- 9.1 Behaviour, attitude and responsibility
9.2 Assertiveness
9.3 Making and breaking relationships
9.5 Sexual Lifestyles eg virginity, celibacy, marriage
9.6 Tolerance
9.7 Importance of family life: marriage and responsible parenthood
9.8 In accordance with the teaching of the Catholic Church: contraception and abortion.

10 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

10.1 Governors

- 10.1.1 In accordance with the Education act of 1993 the governing body will keep up to date the school's policy for SRE, in consultation with parents/carers and will make copies available to them. The Governors will ensure that parents/carers are kept informed of what is happening in SRE and the school's expectations of their children. They will make known to parents/carers their right to withdraw their children from all or part of the SRE provided at school except for those parts included in the statutory National Curriculum.
- 10.1.2 "In accordance with our Instrument of Government and as a Catholic School, mindful that the School is to operate in accordance with the official doctrines, practices and laws of the Catholic Church, we confirm that no pupil is to be taught, assisted, encouraged or advised by anyone employed or working at St Benet Biscop Catholic High School to use the morning after pill or abortion."
- ##### 10.2 Teachers
- 10.2.1 All teachers have a responsibility of care; as well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well-being of their students. Teachers will be expected to teach SRE in accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school. Appropriate training will be made available for all staff teaching SRE.
- ##### 10.3 Students
- 10.3.1 Students have a responsibility to learn about the teaching of the Church and to become aware of the variety of other views regarding moral issues related to SRE. They will be expected to accept responsibility for acquiring knowledge and understanding of their sexual development.



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10.4 The Wider Community

10.4.1 The school will make appropriate use of external agencies and their personnel. All staff from external agencies will be asked to adhere to the Catholic Ethos of the school.

10.5 Parents/Carers

10.5.1 Parents recognise that they are the main educators of their children and the school will seek to work in partnership with them in this task.

11 GUIDELINES

11.1 The school will follow the guidance offered in Chapter 7 of the DFEE document (page 30) for dealing with sensitive questions and for offering appropriate confidentiality. We will ensure that all those involved in the delivery of SRE are familiar with their legal and professional responsibilities.

12 MONITORING, REVIEW AND EVALUATION

12.1 SRE policy and practice will be reviewed under the same process as all other policies.

12.2 Evaluation will take place with students, staff and parent/carers

Adapted from the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Model Policy for Sex and Relationship Education/St Benet Biscop Catholic High School original policy