



Saint Christina's School  
SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION POLICY

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## Mission Statement

***Ad finem fidelis\****

***We share and care and forgive***

***For that is how Christ teaches us to live***

At Saint Christina's we're a part of God's family,  
Where we live and learn and play in harmony.  
Everybody here strives to follow Christ's way,  
In all that they think and do and say.

At Saint Christina's we're a part of God's family,  
We respect diversity and individuality.  
We seek to excel in all that we do,  
Grow in God's love and embrace Christ's teaching, too!

At Saint Christina's we pray and grow together,  
Treating everybody like a sister or a brother.  
We learn tolerance and co-operation,  
Embracing people from every nation

## **Church Teaching**

The Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) Policy of Saint Christina's School seeks to convey the unity and coherence of church teaching on human sexuality and the dignity of life. It is important that church teaching does not appear to come across as a series of random or arbitrary prohibitions, but rather a "consistent ethic of life". This approach encourages young people to enter into a deeper relationship with God, themselves and others and is founded on a realisation that:

- Every human life has an intrinsic and absolute value through being created by God and in the image of God;
- This value derives from the simple fact of existing and is not dependent on an individual's age, abilities, social acceptability or any other characteristic;
- Self-respect and respect for each other must underline all human relationships.

At Saint Christina's School we aim to work in close co-operation with parents who are the primary educators. We also aim to support parishes and the wider Church in their formation of young people. SRE will help prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult relationships.

This policy has also been informed by advice and documents from the CES and Diocese of Westminster.

### **Sensitively and age-appropriately, our aims and objectives are:**

- To generate an atmosphere where pupils can be comfortable about asking questions related to sex and sexuality;
- To gain awareness of where pupils are, in their own knowledge and understanding, so that their concerns can be identified and addressed where possible;
- To help pupils understand forthcoming pubertal changes;
- To provide explanations and reassurances about these physical and emotional changes and help children adjust to them;
- To increase pupils' understanding of themselves, their own bodies and their emotional and spiritual development as they grow and change;
- To help children to be aware of the importance of personal hygiene;
- To counteract myth and folklore;
- To raise pupils' awareness of risk and enable them to protect themselves against exploitation or harm, particularly on the Internet and Social Media;
- To support young people with help and guidance in their endeavours to live out their lives as members of a Christian family;
- To encourage growth in self-respect and self-worth, recognising that each of us is created in the image of God;
- To encourage pupils to be aware of their own attitudes and values and have a sense of their own responsibilities for themselves and towards others;
- To enable pupils to reflect on their relationships and to recognise the qualities that help relationships grow and develop positively;
- To provide a forum for pupils to share their concerns in a climate of support and sensitivity;
- To ensure that pupils recognise the importance of the choices they make and the consequences of their decisions.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

Saint Christina's School recognises that parents are the first and best educators of their children and that we work in partnership with them and seek to support parents in this role. There is currently no statutory requirement to teach SRE in primary schools and the School also acknowledges that parents have a right to withdraw their children from SRE. Should parents wish to do so they are asked to notify the School in advance, in writing.

The Governors have the responsibility for ensuring there is an up to date SRE Policy, which, in consultation with parents and teachers, is in keeping with Catholic teaching. It is the Governors' responsibility to ensure that the policy is available to parents, and that parents know of their right to withdraw their children.

The Headteacher, with the assistance of the Deputy Head has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that policy and practice in this area are fulfilled. The Headteacher is responsible for overseeing both curriculum implementation and other elements of School life contributing to SRE. This will include monitoring and evaluating SRE policy and practice.

In all areas of the curriculum it is possible for issues concerning relationships and personal growth to arise and it is inevitable that the teaching of an apparently unrelated topic will occasionally lead to a discussion of aspects of SRE. As a Catholic School it is imperative that our teaching in this area reflects the doctrine and teaching of the Church, and it is expected that all teachers will treat the issues with the greatest sensitivity while supporting the Catholic principles of the School.

Some pupils may choose to mention instances of sexual behaviour/ issues in class or to individual members of the School community. Staff will be supportive in such situations. In dealing with such matters, they must follow child protection procedures, they must not guarantee confidentiality (see Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy).

## **Related Policies / Documents**

- Child Protection & Safeguarding
- PSHE scheme of work
- RE scheme of work
- Science department scheme of work
- Acceptable Use / E-Safety Policy