

St Paul's Catholic Primary School

Responsible Committee: Curriculum & Pupil Welfare

Approved by Governing Body: 12th July 2017

Review Date: Easter Term 2020

**Education for Personal Relationships
(EPR)**

Vision

Our aim is to educate the whole person; spiritually, intellectually, morally, emotionally, psychologically, and physically towards Christian maturity.

We seek to provide an environment where pupils are informed about relationships in the context of the Catholic faith. In response to the exhortation of the Bishops of England and Wales, we recognise our important role in Relationship and Sex Education (RSE).

We acknowledge the need to address issues raised by the actual experience of pupils today.

The Education for Personal Relationships (EPR) programme at St Paul's follows Diocesan Guidelines and is in keeping with the Catholic Church's teaching.

Appendix Diocesan Guidance for Education in Personal Relationships (EPR)

It is firmly established good practice that 'Education in Personal Relationships' (EPR) should run through the curriculum in a Catholic school. Specific programmes may also be run either under this name, or as 'Personal, Health and Social Education' (PHSE). This part of the curriculum will usually include most elements of the school's relationship and sex education, drug education and citizenship programmes.

The governors of primary schools must decide which non-statutory elements of relationship and sex education will be taught and keep a record of their decision. However, all diocesan primary schools would be expected to have a taught programme of Relationship and Sex Education. All schools with Relationship and Sex Education programmes must have a policy statement which is available for parents.

The National Curriculum orders for science set out the scientific elements of Relationship and Sex Education. In Catholic schools, the RE curriculum should complement the scientific aspect with a more holistic approach to personal relationships in their widest sense. (1) the value of the human person, (2) growth towards personal freedom and identity, (3) the importance of marriage and family life, and (4) development of sexuality. The governors' policy on Relationship and Sex Education should carefully set out how the overall coordination of curriculum elements is to be achieved and how delivery is to be monitored and evaluated.

Heads and governors have a statutory responsibility to ensure that young people are taught the importance of marriage and that they are protected from inappropriate teaching materials (DfES Guidance on Relationship and Sex Education March 2017). Parents may withdraw their children from Relationship and Sex Education. However, as Catholic schools teach it within the context of education for personal relationships and Christian values, no Catholic parent should need to exercise this option. All parents should be made aware of the nature of the provision for EPR, RE and worship when they consider applying for places at the school.

The Catholic Education Service strongly promotes a holistic and integrated approach throughout the school and emphasises the importance of communicating with parents on the nature of the programme and their part in it.

The diocesan programme for EPR in primary schools addresses all the key areas of a PSHE curriculum and Citizenship. The recommended approach is to teach EPR largely through the school's 'Come and See' religious education programme. It will also link with other key areas of the curriculum such as science and literacy. Some aspects of EPR may also be delivered through discrete modules of work.