



ST PHILIP'S SCHOOL

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION (SRE) POLICY

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Parents are the first and best educators of their children and the St Philip's School works in partnership with them'.¹ It follows from this that parents have the right to withdraw their son from an SRE class should they so wish.

SRE education is a component of the School's Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic education (PSHCE) programme, *Alive to the World*, and of the curricula in Science and Religious Studies. In PSHCE, the topic is approached by learning about family life and the exercise of personal responsibility towards other individuals and the broader community. Before any discussion of the marriage relationship, boys will have learned about friendship and the complementarity of the sexes. This is a cross-curricular theme and is strongly supported in Science and through the religious teachings, ethos and values of the whole School, which are fully in accord with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

The modesty of boys must be respected at all times and therefore lessons are not an open forum for any discussion that teacher or pupil may wish to facilitate as individuals. Teachers must be sensitive to the differing levels of maturity and awareness within a group of pupils and the unique sensitivity of the subject matter. All triviality or vulgarity with regard to sex and relationships should be avoided.

The component of SRE within the PSHCE programme is currently delivered by the Form Teachers and Head of PSHE.

Aims

- To provide a broad and balanced Sex education programme which:**
 - offers appropriate education for all boys in Forms 7 and 8, which complements the biological teaching in Science lessons;
 - operates in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect.
- To allow boys to develop positive attitudes, patterns of behaviour, lifestyles, values, communication and decision-making skills with respect to sexuality and personal relationships, in the context of Catholic teaching.**

¹ See [Guidance on Sex and Relationships Education](#), Diocese of Westminster.

This includes:

- non-exploitation, commitment and trust in sexual relationships;
- an understanding that both sexes have responsibilities in sexual matters;
- the skills to identify, avoid, resist and report unwanted sexual experience;
- fostering self-esteem, self-awareness and a sense of moral responsibility.

3. To give boys knowledge and understanding about:

- the physical, emotional and social aspects of an individual's development;
- responsible attitudes and appropriate behaviour;
- family life – the value and importance of the family as a social institution and its contribution to the development of attachment, love and concern in caring for others;
- elements of foetal development and the basic arguments regarding abortion in the context of the teaching of the Catholic Church.

4. To clarify the link between sexual practices and the transmission of HIV and STDs.

Parents

The School's intention is to complement parents' delivery of sex education to their children.

Any parent requesting information, or a meeting to discuss the teaching of PSHCE, will be promptly accommodated.

The function of PSHCE is to provide general education about SRE and does not offer individual advice, information or counselling on aspects of sexual behaviour and contraception. However, sources of professional information and advice are identified when appropriate. At no stage does an individual member of staff give individual advice on sexual matters and all such questions are directed to the Head Master. The rights of parents are respected.

Confidentiality

In circumstances where a boy is considered at some risk of any type of abuse or in breach of the law, boys and staff understand that this must be referred immediately to the Designated Senior Lead (DSL) in safeguarding and child protection.

The School's policy on confidentiality is that:

- in Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic education, and in whole-school assemblies, all boys are made aware of the inability of all teachers to promise confidentiality;
- any teacher must use his/her professional judgement to decide whether a confidence can be maintained having heard the information and ask for guidance from a more senior member of staff if unsure;
- teachers must indicate clearly to boys when the content of a conversation can no longer be kept confidential – the individual boy can then decide whether to proceed or not.

Homosexuality

Teaching about homosexuality is not avoided when it arises naturally in lessons although teachers do take great care not to advocate homosexual behaviour or present it as having the moral equivalence of heterosexual marriage. For the Church's teaching see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 2357-9. This underlines the moral basis of the Church's teaching within an attitude of compassion and sensitivity. There is a careful balance between upholding the School's religious freedom while adhering to the Equality Act 2010. The School has regard to [The Equality Act 2010 and schools departmental advice for school leaders, school staff, governing bodies and local authorities](#) (May 2014), paragraphs 326-331.