

# Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

- **Set within the context of the Working Documents**
- 'Relationships and Sex Education' - Guidance for Head Teachers and School Governors (2000)
- Ofsted 'Sex and Relationships' (2002)
- Ofsted 'Not yet Good Enough' (2013)
- Sex and Relationships Education in Schools (2014)

As well as the requirements of Ofsted, as **Catholic Schools** we are guided by:

- The teaching of the Catholic Church
- Pope John Paul's 'Theology of the Body'
- The Catholic Education Service
- The Bishops of England and Wales
- Our Diocesan Policy on RSE in our schools

## **Relationships and Sex Education:**

Statutory guidance states that in primary schools pupils should learn:

**Year 5** - physical and emotional changes experienced during puberty.

The values, attitudes and skills needed for healthy relationships.

**Year 6** - how a baby is conceived and born. Good relationship education which is rooted firmly in Church Teaching.

Catholic education is a three way partnership between **home**, **school** and the **parish**.

Parents and the family are the first and primary educators of their children and need to be consulted regarding RSE, with the right to withdraw their child if they so wish.

Research shows that many parents welcome the support of the school in teaching RSE.

‘Guided by the Church’s teaching of what it means to be human and our claims to educate the **whole person**...children and young people should be helped to develop harmoniously their physical, social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual qualities.

The Church goes on to say...We must protect our children from ignorance. (While at the same time protecting their **innocence** until the appropriate age, bearing in mind that children are developing at an earlier age.)

Within the Christian community there is a real need to give gradual and positive sex education to our children.

‘As a Catholic community we believe that Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is integral to the lifelong learning process and the belief that we have been uniquely created in the image and likeness of God’.

‘As such, all people have special value and worth. RSE is firmly rooted in the school’s personal, social and health education programme, through Religious Education (RE) and as part of the statutory National Curriculum for science’.

RSE is set within a broader context of building self-esteem, building relationships and taking responsibility for one's actions.

The programme focuses on meaningful discussion about feelings, relationships and values as well as the physical aspects of reproduction.

It supports Catholic teaching on issues that the children may spontaneously raise for example, abortion.

The Catholic Church gets a bad name about being 'hung up' when it comes to its teaching on sex , but for those who really know the Church's teaching this could not be further from the truth.

In recent years, Pope John Paul II, wrote extensively about human beings being sexual beings and that this is at the nature of our humanity.

If we are not 'comfortable' talking about sexuality, the children will pick this up and they will think it is a 'taboo' subject.

Any questions so far before we move on to the actual RSE Programme?

## **Genesis – 1: 26 – 27....**

*(After God had created the world)*

**‘God created human beings, making them to be like Himself’. *What does that mean?***

**It means that we are *more* than just a body, we have a soul, or another way of putting it is that we have God’s Spirit in us.**

**We can explain our bodies and how they change in puberty and throughout our lives...but we cannot explain the soul.**

**God who made us, wants us to be happy in our lives and He does this through living in this world with us and helping us throughout our lives. This includes puberty and helping us to build good relationships.**



# Creator of Life is God.



Before we start thinking about how babies are made, we need to remind ourselves of what our faith tells us.



The Bible tells us in Genesis 1:26 - 31 (let's read it together). God tells us how he made the world and then on the sixth day He made a man and a woman. God loved them very much and made their bodies so that they could have children and in this way, humans are working with God to create the world. God did this because he loves.