



PSHE/RSE Curriculum Statement

Intent

At St Catherine's Catholic Primary School, we believe that high-quality PSHE is essential in nurturing the whole child — spiritually, morally, socially, emotionally and intellectually. Rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church, our PSHE curriculum supports children in becoming compassionate, responsible and active citizens of the world, guided by Gospel values and Catholic virtues. Through PSHE, children learn to recognise their God-given dignity, value themselves and others, and understand their role within the wider global and faith community. They are encouraged to reflect on their experiences, grow in faith and character, and develop the skills needed to live out their vocation with love and purpose. Our curriculum prepares pupils to navigate an ever-changing world with confidence and wisdom, supporting them in developing the knowledge, understanding and personal skills needed to build healthy relationships, maintain their wellbeing and recognise situations where they may need support from trusted adults.

Our Curriculum Aims

Catholic Attitudes and Virtues

Respect for the dignity of every human being as made in the image of God.
Joy and gratitude for the gift of creation and their own bodies.
Responsibility for one's actions and their impact on others.
Recognition and celebration of their own and others' identity as children of God.
Appreciation of lifelong love, the sanctity of marriage and the importance of family life.
A commitment to justice, mercy, forgiveness and peace.

Personal and Social Skills

Making wise and moral choices guided by conscience and Gospel values.
Forming loving, respectful and stable relationships based on kindness, empathy and mutual respect.
Managing emotions with compassion, integrity and resilience.
Resolving conflict peacefully and valuing diversity within God's family.
Demonstrating humility, empathy and resilience.
Recognising and responding to negative influences and pressures, including those encountered through media, online environments and peer relationships.
Building self-esteem and confidence rooted in their identity as beloved children of God.
Developing the confidence to seek guidance and support from trusted adults when faced with challenges or concerns.

Knowledge and Understanding

The Church's teaching on marriage, family and human dignity.
The importance of virtue in guiding relationships and moral living.
The importance of caring for physical and emotional wellbeing.
Age-appropriate understanding of the human body and the physical and emotional changes of puberty.
How to recognise safe and unsafe situations, including online contexts, and the importance of seeking help when needed.
The sacred role of sexual love in the context of marriage and procreation. (Parents retain the right to withdraw their child from this aspect of the curriculum.)

Implementation

We deliver a spiral PSHE curriculum that builds on prior learning and reflects the needs of our pupils, always grounded in Catholic teaching and diocesan guidance.

In Autumn Term 1, we use our bespoke school curriculum to introduce key themes, contemporary issues and worldwide events relevant to pupils' lives.

From Autumn Term 2 onwards, we implement the Ten Ten RSE programme, which is fully aligned with the teachings of the Catholic Church and the guidance of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.

PSHE is taught weekly across all year groups, with opportunities for cross-curricular links and responsive teaching based on pupils' needs. It is embedded in assemblies, Celebration of the Word and the wider Catholic life of the school, where children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is nurtured.

The curriculum is structured around three core themes:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Relationships
- Living in the Wider World

Through these themes, pupils develop the knowledge, skills and virtues needed to grow into respectful, resilient and responsible individuals who can contribute positively to their communities and live out their faith in the modern world.

Impact

As with any learning process, assessment of pupils' moral, personal, social and emotional development is important. Assessment in PSHE education should be active and participatory, helping children to recognise the progress they are making in developing and taking part, as well as in their knowledge and understanding. Children should learn to reflect on their experiences, ask questions, make judgements about their strengths and needs, and begin to plan how to make progress and set personal targets. In St Catherine's teachers assess children's work in PSHE education by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons and at other times during the school day. Just as in all National Curriculum subjects, opportunities for both Assessment for Learning and Assessment of Learning are built into provision. Baseline assessment, to understand pupils' prior learning, is essential to ensure new learning is relevant and progress can be assessed, which is completed at the start of each unit, then revisited at the end with a different colour.

Assessment should encompass teacher, peer and self-assessment.

In PSHE education there are two broad areas for assessment:

- Children's knowledge and understanding, for example, information on health, understanding of rules, understanding of health and safety procedures, and the meaning of ideas including democracy.
- How well children can use their knowledge and understanding in developing skills and attitudes, for example through participating in discussions, group task and activities, managing conflict, making decisions and promoting positive relationships