

**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**EDUCATION IN PERSONAL
RELATIONSHIPS (EPR) POLICY**

Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Catholic Schools Service

Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School

Education for Personal Relationships (EPR) policy

At St Francis of Assisi
we believe God is at the heart of our school.
As a school community,
we work together to provide
a caring, stimulating and nurturing environment,
where every child can discover their true potential
and grow closer to Christ.
As pupils and staff
we encourage in each other
a love of learning.
This is a place where we can all belong
and where diversity and difference is celebrated.
We rejoice in each others' uniqueness
and respect the dignity and beauty
of each individual.
Using our gifts and talents we will
actively seek to make a real difference -
by caring for one another and caring for our world.

Rationale

***'I have come that you might have life and have it to the full'
John 10:10***

Education is about growth and development of the whole human person. It should aim to integrate a pupil's

- Intellectual
- Moral
- Spiritual
- Emotional
- Psychological
- and physical development

And so lead to full Christian maturity, human wholeness and flourishing.

Schools have a key role in **supporting parents in their primary responsibility** in enabling their children to grow in understanding of human relationships and to educate and inform them in all matters of personal growth and development.

We acknowledge that underpinning all personal, social, health, moral and citizenship education is the central belief in the dignity of each one of us as created and loved by God and the importance of relationships. EPR encompasses all these aspects of development.

We aim to provide an environment where pupils are informed about relationships **in the context of the Catholic faith.**

The aims of EPR

- To encourage pupils' growth in self-respect, acknowledging we are all created in the likeness of God.
- To help pupils develop an understanding that love is the central basis of relationships.
- To help pupils to understand the nature of relationships and to encourage them to reflect on their own relationships and respect differences between people.
- To develop pupils' confidence in talking, listening and thinking about feelings, emotions and relationships.
- To help pupils acquire the skills necessary to develop and sustain relationships.
- To offer sex education in the wider context of relationships.
- To ensure that pupils protect themselves and know how to ask for help and support when needed.
- To ensure that pupils are prepared for puberty.
- To help pupils develop healthy and safe lifestyles.
- To prepare pupils to play an active role as citizens and to understand the Catholic vision of what it means to be citizens of the Kingdom of God.

All staff recognise that they have an obligation in their various roles to contribute to EPR.

EPR requires sensitive teaching with pupil activities, discussions and support materials being well **matched** to the **age** and **level of understanding, needs** and **concerns of the pupils**.

The school's SRE policy sets out guidelines for dealing with questions of a sensitive nature in relation to sex and relationship education and identifies the **specific content to be taught**.

The Diocesan framework and related mapping documents are used so that EPR is delivered through a **planned** curriculum to ensure progression and continuity.

EPR is delivered through:

- General ethos of the school as witnessed by the pupils and underpinned by school policies
- The Religious Education programme
- Discrete teaching time
- Making cross curricular links with science, geography, history etc
- The use of CAFOD, SEAL and other resource materials where appropriate and relevant
- Visiting experts, e.g. to deliver First Aid training, fire safety guidance etc
- Developing a learning climate which enables a response to opportunities that arise e.g. personal experiences, school, local, national and international events.
- Developing opportunities for charity support and involvement

Responsibilities

The governors, and especially the Foundation Governors, are responsible for ensuring that the EPR programme follows Diocesan guidelines and is in keeping with the Church's teachings.

In all matters related to EPR and especially Sex and Relationship Education governors will ensure that parents are consulted on the contents of the programme and given an opportunity to view resources.

The EPR coordinator is responsible for ensuring the effective delivery of the EPR programme, which is well planned and appropriately matched to age and levels of understanding and in keeping with the Catholic ethos of the school.

We will all be sensitive, fair and understanding to the individual needs of the child (and in respect of disability, special educational needs, race, religion and circumstances, in accordance with the '*Equality Act: 2010*'),