

Sex & Relationships Education Policies in Secondary State Faith Schools in Wales

- There are 18 maintained secondary faith schools in Wales. Three are Church in Wales, one is Roman Catholic & Anglican, and the rest are Roman Catholic.
- A sex & relationships policy could not be found on the website for six schools.

All other policies are taught within the tenets of Catholicism/Church in Wales.

The more concerning examples of policy wording include:

St. John Baptist High School

<http://www.stjohnbaptist.co.uk/filecache/670/7da/17872-sex-education-policy.pdf>

“Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 prohibits Local Education Authorities from promoting homosexuality or “promoting the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship”.”

Updated September 2017.

St. Joseph's R.C. High School

<http://www.sjhs.org.uk/files/BFCB86F22465953BF2039457B4AD4734.pdf>

“Our society is already failing young people by an impoverished view of sex, too often entirely separated from any context of committed love and readiness for parenthood”. The aim of the Sex and Relationships policy therefore, in accordance with Catholic teaching, is not simply to isolate the purely biological sphere of personal relationships, “the impoverished view” that the bishops speak of, as though we can approach relationships of this nature in a theoretical and mechanistic way that denies the reality that personal relationships inevitably have on the whole of our lives, our families and society.”

“Understanding of the sacrament of marriage as a covenant and sign to the world. Appreciate the factors that contribute towards making a marriage dysfunctional: e.g. poor communication, divorce, adultery or a contraceptive mentality.”

“The Catholic Church teaches that sex is a gift from God to enable two people to express their Exclusive love for each other and to help continue God’s work of creation. Sex completes a relationship. Thus sexual intercourse should only take place within the firm commitment of marriage.”

“The act of sexual intercourse is also the action through which the human race is continued. Therefore, any sexual acts where the creation of new life has been deliberately ruled out –including the use of artificial contraceptives –must be regarded as a wrong use of sex.”

“The Church’s teaching on abortion is quite clear. God created us all in his image and human life is sacred. The question of when this begins has been the cause of debate. The Church states that life begins at conception. The strength of this arrangement lies in the fact that there is no other point in personal development of which we can say ‘Human life has now come into being – before this point it did not exist’.”

“The Church teaches that masturbation is wrong in that it can be seen as a form of self-indulgence. This is not what the act of sex is intended to be. God, the Creator, designed it as the special means by which man and a woman can give themselves to one another. Masturbation encourages us to live

in a fantasy world rather than to find fulfilment through working hard at a relationship in the real world. It can teach us to regard others as sex objects, rather than people in their own right.”

“We need, first to distinguish between homosexuality as a condition and homosexuality as a practice. The Catholic Church accepts that, generally speaking, homosexuality as a condition is not a matter of choice. However, while all human beings are called to love, the Church does not believe that sexual activity is necessary to the expression of this love; witness the value it attaches to celibacy and the vow of virginity. In fact, the church teaches that the full sexual expression of love is reserved for husband and wife in marriage and that this sexual expression of love must be open to the possibility of new life. Hence, the Catholic Church does not accept homosexuality in practice. It does not believe that sexual acts between persons of the same sex are morally right in principle. The Church bases this teaching on Biblical theology and on its Philosophy of Natural Law. However, the Church is aware of the special problems of homosexuals and would stress in this regard the love of Jesus for all. We are all created by God and the possibility of repentance and forgiveness for sexual sins is open to all.”

“The approach of the Catholic Church towards AIDS can be viewed from the point of view of:-

1. The Victim 2. The underlying causes.

1 (i) once a person suffers, from whatever cause, the victim is to be treated with the fullness of Christian love and care. (ii) Great care must be taken to avoid the ‘homosexual bashing’ mentality.

2 (i) Clearly the Catholic Church supports the view that loyalty to one partner is the best defence against the spread of AIDS (ii) Since the Catholic view is that the full sexual expression of human love is reserved for husband and wife within marriage, it cannot support any measures, which tacitly accept, even if they do not encourage, sexual activity outside marriage.... ‘Nor can we accept (iii) that for the unmarried the choices lie between condoms and infection. There is a third course of action: refusal to engage in extra marital sexual activity’ – (Cardinal Hume)”

Bishop Of Llandaff Church In Wales High School

<https://www.bishopofllandaff.org/465/policies>

“There will inevitably be discussion of homosexuality, bisexuality and transgender issues when they arise in lessons.”

Cardinal Newman R.C.

http://www.cardinalnewman.co.uk/images/Policies/SEX_AND_RELATIONSHIPS_POLICY.pdf

“God’s holy spirit of sexual intercourse is reserved for the permanent commitment of marriage, expressive of the bond of mutual love and open to God’s gift of new life.”

“As society has progressed and ideals have lowered, we feel that our pupils may suffer and need to be made aware of the problems of promiscuity and reminded of the Church’s teaching far earlier than we would have a decade ago.”

St. Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Flintshire, and St. Illtyd's Catholic High School

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/946d21_5a005ef8645e4784aa6bffa0e1db293c.pdf

<http://www.stilltyds.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Sex-Education-Policy-September-2017.pdf>

“Clearly, the school must work together ever harder in our contemporary society so that our young people inherit an attitude that reflects the divine purpose for sexual love. In other words, that all come to recognise sexuality as a sign of the spirit-directed and Christ-based self-giving of the married couple.”

Bishop Vaughan School, Swansea

<https://bishopvaughan.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Sex-and-Relationships-Education.pdf>

“The task of positive sex education is directed not only towards helping young people on the way to psychological and spiritual maturity, but also and most urgently to protecting them from the dangers of ignorance and widespread degradation. Faced with a culture which largely reduces human sexuality to the level of something commonplace, since it interprets and lives it in a reductive and impoverished way by linking it solely with the body and with selfish pleasure, education, whether by parents or by teachers, must aim at an authentic appreciation of personal relationships and of the role of sex in the formation and celebration of such relationships.”

St John Lloyd Catholic Comprehensive School

www.stjohnlloyd.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Sex-Education-Policy-2016.doc

“Aims: To enable our pupils to:.. See sexual expression as special and important, naturally placed in a stable, permanent, exclusive and loving relationship, ideally within marriage, ensuring that all moral issues discussed are informed by the moral teaching of the Catholic Church.”

Additionally, the school teaches “Catholic Church’s teaching” on homosexuality and contraception.

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, The Vale of Glamorgan

<http://www.strichardgwyn.co.uk/images/srg/PDF/policies/Sex%20and%20Relationships%20Education%20Policy%20Jan%202016.pdf>

This school says it teaches about “Single parenthood, Pre-marital sex, HIV/AIDS, Homosexuality, Masturbation, Abortion” “in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church.”

Also, in addition to pregnancy, abuse, sexual intercourse and rape, if a child discloses information about “homosexual activities” it is mandatory to report it to the School Child Protection Officer (School Chaplain). St. Joseph's R.C. High School (see above) has a similar policy.