



Wimbledon College

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Preamble

In formulating this policy Wimbledon College is indebted to the guidance provided by the Archdiocese of Southwark in its *Policy for Education in Human Love* (DPEHL February 2007). We seek to observe the guidance set out therein, to the teachings of the Catholic Church, and to our particular Ignatian charism as a Jesuit school in which the school's ethos is firmly rooted.

Theological Foundations

"To find God in all things" is a fundamental Ignatian principle which animates us in all we do, and so "any teaching or formation on human love or human development must be within the whole context of our faith in God" (DPEHL p1). Our faith is in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who has revealed himself to the Nations in the Person of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are the branch grafted on to the tree of Israel, and our salvation in Christ comes through Israel, and in particular through the relationship that was maintained by a loving Father with his often wayward and sometimes willful children. We find our true understanding of the inestimable value of all human relationships in this relationship and in its continuation in the later dispensation in Christ.

Praxis

Our legal, moral and religious obligations in providing a proper education for children, means that our teaching and learning methodologies must always remain consonant with the magisterial teachings of the Roman Catholic Church down through the ages, and with the *sensus fidei* (the mind of the Church). It should be unambiguous from what has gone before that the utmost care is to be taken in the choice of resources used and the methodologies employed by teaching staff and any outside agencies that are a party to the delivery of these aspects of the curriculum. It is not the case that resources and methodologies recommended by certain educational authorities are simply by that fact alone necessarily appropriate for use in a Catholic school.

Wimbledon College recognizes that the parents of children are their primary educators and that the Catholic school is the parents' collaborator in the education of the children entrusted to its care. At the same time it is recognized that this particular dimension of a child's education is of grave importance and yet due to its sensitive nature may well, at least in part, pose the greatest challenges to the parents. Insofar as this is indeed the case, the Catholic school provides the best environment to ensure that this dimension of the child's education is properly provided for.

Children will develop their appreciation of what it means to be in loving relationships at the hearth, and this education in the family will be built upon in the Catholic school. At Wimbledon College pupils will learn about human reproduction in science lessons in Rudiments and Lower Grammar. Education with regard to family planning will involve the school nurse in Lower Grammar and education about sexual health in Syntax. Religious education lessons in Lower and Higher Lines have relationship education as a recurring theme throughout.

Wimbledon College

July 2007

Confirmed and adopted by Governing Body 30th March 2010