

# **SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

### **SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION**

The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education welcomes the new guidance from the DfEE on Sex and Relationship Education. Effective sex and relationship education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives. It should not be delivered in isolation. It should be firmly rooted within the framework for Personal, Social and Health Education (PHSE) and the National Curriculum, and should be taught within a moral, family-oriented and Christian context.

As part of sex and relationship education, pupils should be taught about the nature and importance of marriage for family life and bringing up children and the significance of stable relationships as key building blocks of community and society. It is recognised that there are strong and mutually supportive relationships outside marriage and care needs to be taken to ensure that there is not stigmatisation of children, based on their home circumstances.

Parents are the key people in teaching their children about sex, relationships and growing up. Schools should always work in partnership with parents, consulting them regularly on the content of the programmes. Others in the wider community, such as, health professionals, social workers, youth workers etc, will also have a valuable part to play.

Sex and relationship education is lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development. It is about the understanding of the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care. It is also about the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health. It is not about the promotion of sexual orientation or sexual activity – this would be inappropriate teaching.

September 1996 (Schools Committee)

Revised September 2000