

## WORKING TOGETHER

Increasingly, teachers in schools are expected to work in partnership with other professionals to deliver services to children and young people. This is particularly the case with Health matters, where support is offered by nurses, various Health staff, social workers and others.

Catholic schools have been issued with guidance by the Church on how to develop suitable arrangements for working with others in the provision of relationships and sex education.

These guidelines stress the following points:

- Head Teachers are responsible for the content and delivery of all sex education in school.
- Support agencies and other professionals must be asked to respect the principles which underpin the Catholic school's approach to Relationships and Moral Education.
- Any materials distributed to pupils must be approved by the Head Teacher.
- A teacher must always be present in class when other agencies are involved.
- No moral view should be promoted which is at odds with the Church's teaching.
- Parents should be informed and consulted on any involvement of any support agencies.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your Diocesan R.E. office for details of any support provided to parents locally.

The following websites provide useful information and advice.

**SCOTTISH CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE**  
[www.sces.uk.com](http://www.sces.uk.com)

**CALLED TO LOVE**  
[www.calledtolove.org](http://www.calledtolove.org)

**SCOTTISH MARRIAGE CARE**  
[www.scottishmarriagecare.org](http://www.scottishmarriagecare.org)

**FERTILITY CARE SCOTLAND**  
[www.fertilitycare.org.uk](http://www.fertilitycare.org.uk)

**CARDINAL WINNING PRO LIFE INITIATIVE**  
[www.prolifeinitiative.org.uk](http://www.prolifeinitiative.org.uk)

**SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE UNBORN CHILD**  
[www.spucscotland.org](http://www.spucscotland.org)

**THE LINACRE CENTRE FOR BIOETHICS**  
[www.linacre.org/index.htm](http://www.linacre.org/index.htm)



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**SCOTTISH CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION SERVICE**



## RELATIONSHIPS & MORAL EDUCATION in the Catholic School



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**Guide for parents  
and carers**

# RELATIONSHIPS & MORAL EDUCATION: PARENTS ARE FIRST AND FOREMOST EDUCATORS

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The Catholic Church has always recognized the primary role played by parents in the sex education of their children; parents are regarded as the first and foremost educators of their children.

The Church also recognizes the important contribution made by the Catholic school to the education and formation of young people for life.

The purpose of this leaflet is to assist parents and carers in developing a fuller understanding of the main approaches taken to the teaching of programmes of **Relationships and Moral Education** in the Catholic school. It lays emphasis on the very special role of parents, working in close partnership with the school and the Church in the formation of their children for adult life.

It encourages you to become informed about your school's programmes and to discuss the relevant issues with your children at appropriate stages, in partnership with the school.

## GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS

The Catholic Education Commission (CEC) advises the Catholic Bishops of Scotland on matters relating to education. The CEC anticipated guidance issued by the Scottish Executive on the conduct of sex and relationships education in schools, and in 2002 produced its own **Guidelines** for the teaching of RME in Catholic schools. These were based on the particular Gospel values that are the foundation of the Catholic school.

The CEC also produced **Guidance Notes** offering advice to teachers on the Church's teaching on various relevant issues. These notes include references to key Church documents, including the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC).

## TEACHING MATERIALS

The Church, in conjunction with various agencies, has attempted to provide schools and parents with suitable **Resources** to support the teaching of programmes in primary and secondary schools. It wishes to ensure that all materials used in Catholic schools are based on the CEC Guidelines and are fully supportive of Church teaching.

Dioceses recommend particular teaching materials which meet the CEC Guidelines. Additional materials are being developed over time.

## KEY FEATURES

- All teaching materials should present a Catholic Christian vision of relationships and sexuality, as appropriate to the age and stage development of learners.
- Young people should be provided with appropriate information that will enable them to make moral choices freely.
- Young people will be taught to develop skills in moral decision-making so that they can make decisions which embody love, honesty, compassion and respect for life.
- The value of marriage and the importance of family life will be promoted, with sensitivity shown towards personal and family circumstances.
- Young people will be helped to understand the positive value of abstaining from sexual intercourse until they marry.
- Schools should consult parents on the content of teaching materials and the method and timing of their delivery.
- Teachers who deliver these programmes will receive appropriate training in the Church's teaching.
- The Head Teacher is responsible for determining the content and delivery of all aspects of relationships and sex education, in accord with Church teaching.