

# RSE at St Mary's Catholic Primary School

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others.

It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy.

It has the eyes to see misery and want.

It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others.

That is what love looks like. (St Augustine)

At St Mary's we aim to provide a secure and caring atmosphere where moral and spiritual values are developed throughout the whole curriculum. We believe that by developing the 'whole person' we will enable individuals to lead a rewarding, satisfying and fulfilling life.

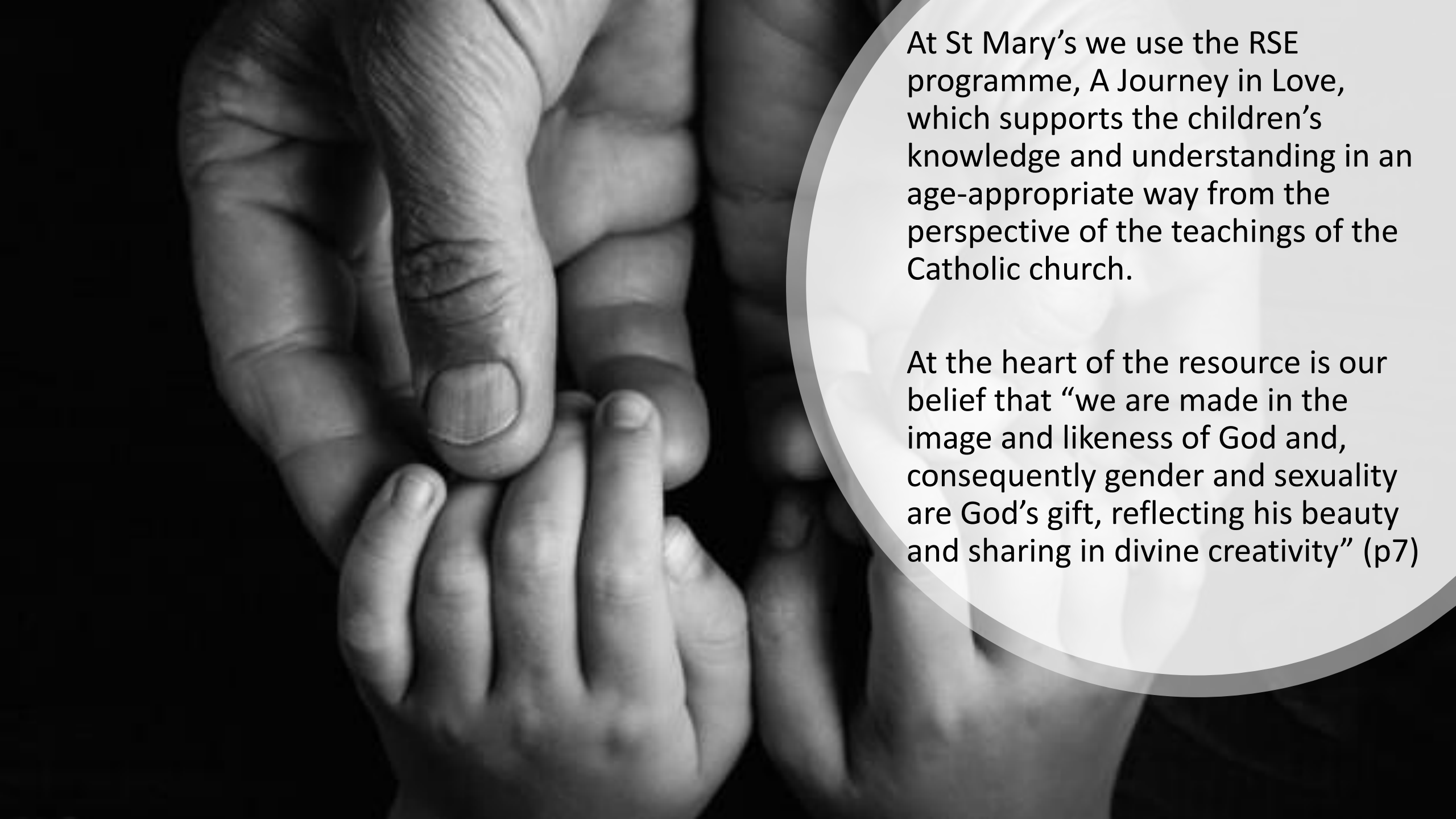
Education provides the opportunity for all members of the school team to explore and understand their relationship to themselves, to others and the world we live in.

On 1st March 2017 the Government amended the Children and Social Work Bill to ensure RSE and PSHE is now mandatory in every school in Britain. The expectation is that all school will have this in place by the summer of 2021.

“RSE and PSHE teach children and young people how to stay safe and healthy, and how to negotiate some of the personal and social challenges they will face growing up and as adults. These subjects form part of the building blocks young people need to thrive in modern Britain.” - Justine Greening Education Secretary (2016-18)

Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, ('The Joy of Love'), reminds us that the family is where we first learn to relate to others, to listen and share, to be patient, to help one another, learn closeness, care and respect for others, (n276). He underlines the importance and vital role Catholic schools play in assisting and helping pupils grown into mature adults, (n279). He accentuates that sex education should provide information while keeping in mind that children have not yet attained maturity. This information has to come at a proper time and in a way suited to their age (n281).





At St Mary's we use the RSE programme, A Journey in Love, which supports the children's knowledge and understanding in an age-appropriate way from the perspective of the teachings of the Catholic church.

At the heart of the resource is our belief that "we are made in the image and likeness of God and, consequently gender and sexuality are God's gift, reflecting his beauty and sharing in divine creativity" (p7)

The programme runs from Nursery through to Year 6 building on the children's understanding, knowledge and skills each year.





## Early Years – Nursery and Reception

The children learn the wonder of being unique and special:

- to recognise the joy of being a special person in their family.
- to recognise that physically we are all different and unique.
- to celebrate the joy of being a special person in God's family.



## Year 1

The children learn that we meet God's love in our family:

- to recognise the signs that they are loved by their families
- to recognise how they are cared for and kept safe by their families.
- to celebrate that God loves and cares for them.





## Year 2

The children learn how we are growing and developing in diverse communities that are God-given:

- to recognise the joy and friendship of belonging to a diverse community.
- to describe ways of being safe in communities.
- to celebrate ways of meeting God in our communities.



## Year 3

The children learn to describe and give reasons for how we grow in love in caring and happy friendships where we are secure and safe:

- to describe and give reasons how friendships make us feel happy and safe.
- to describe and give reasons why friendships break down, how they can be repaired and strengthened.
- to celebrate the joy and happiness of living in friendship with God and others.



## Year 4

The children learn to make links and connections to show that we are different:

- to describe how we all should be accepted and respected.
- to describe how we should treat others making links with the diverse modern society we live in.
- to celebrate the uniqueness and innate beauty of each us.
- to celebrate these differences as we appreciate the God's love accepts us as we are now and as we change.



## Year 5

The children begin to show a knowledge and understanding of how we grow in awareness of the physical and emotional changes that accompany puberty and grow further in recognising God's presence in our daily lives:

- to show knowledge and understanding of emotional relationship changes as we grow and develop.
- to show knowledge and understanding of the physical changes in puberty.
- to celebrate the joy of growing physically and spiritually.



## Year 6

The children learn to develop a secure understanding of what stable caring relationships are and the different kinds of relationships there may be.

Focusing on Catholic teaching the children will know and understand about the conception of a child within marriage.

- to develop a secure understanding that stable and caring relationships, which may be of different types are at the heart of happy families.
- to explain how human life is conceived.
- to show an understanding of how being made in the image and likeness of God informs decisions and actions when building relationships with others including life-long relationships.





God be with our family,  
from the youngest to the oldest,  
lighting up our relationships,  
sowing grace into our troubles.

God be with our family,  
Weaving love into our work,  
Our rest, and our play.

Amen

