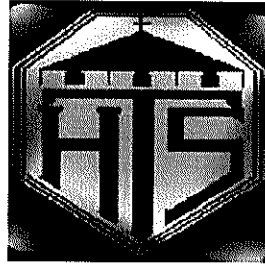


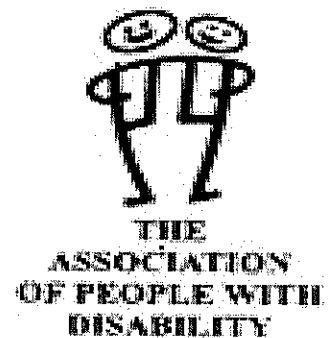
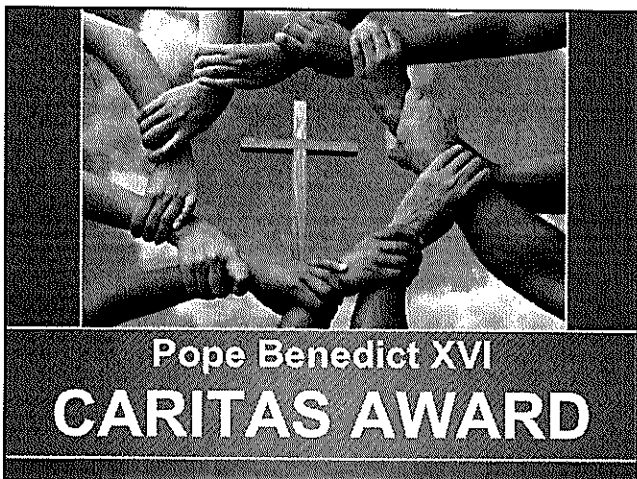
TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL



PARENTAL INFORMATION LEAFLET

SEX AND MORAL EDUCATION

2020 – 2021



BACKGROUND

As a Catholic School Trinity High seeks to promote the care and welfare of all its pupils/students and promote their development as young people who will contribute positively to the society in which they live. This mission has been outlined by the Catholic Church as follows:-

“...to develop as a community of faith and learning, providing the highest quality of education and offering formation through the promotion of Gospel Values, through celebration and worship, and through service to the common good”.

A Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland – Scottish Catholic Education Service (2004).

Critical to the development of our young people is a growing awareness and knowledge of sexual education within a moral context. For Catholic schools this will be set within the Catholic moral context. Clearly children and young people are to be encouraged to understand and appreciate the value of stable family life which promotes parental responsibility and offers security, stability and happiness. All of this is seen most completely for Catholics within the commitment of marriage and the promotion of important Christian Gospel values which will help our young people to develop an appreciation of the responsibilities of marriage and parenthood.

Issues relating to sex and moral education can be discussed in a variety of curricular areas but principally will be considered within a structured context of Religious Education, Personal and Social Education and Science. In particular our RE programme is entirely consistent with the document published by the Bishops' Conference in Scotland entitled “This Is Our Faith” (TIOF) and which is being extended to include the Senior Phase in S4 – S6. All materials in use within the R.E. Department are approved for use in Catholic Schools and are available for parents to view on request at Parents' Meetings or by arrangement.

CALLED TO LOVE: KEY MESSAGES

The Catholic approach to RE (Religious Education) is one that places great emphasis on the uniqueness of each individual person, created in the image and likeness of God, and on the formation of conscience in making moral decisions. The vision of love, relationships and sexuality presented in 'Called to Love' recognises the dignity of each human life, promotes a respect for self and for others, and encourages an approach which is not judgmental on those who do not share the same vision.

Young people working through 'Called to Love' will encounter a number of key messages regarding our human sexuality as a gift from God, one which demands of us respect and responsibility, for ourselves and others. In any one session of the programme from S1 to S6 one or more of these key messages will have a direct bearing on the work being done in class. So what are these key messages?

You are a special human being, created by God in his own image and likeness, gifted with unique talents and potential for life.

You are called to love – to know the love of God, of family and of friends – and to love others as you are loved by God.

God loves all people as his children. You are called to show respect for all people, even when their views and actions, their values and beliefs, are different from your own.

Your sexuality makes it natural for you to be attracted to other people. Such attraction can lead to strong emotional and physical feelings which should always be expressed with modesty and respect, both for yourself and others.

Your sexuality is an important and intimate feature of your person, given to you as part of God's plan for your happiness and your life's vocation. You should cherish it and ensure that it is not exploited.

The ultimate sexual expression of such attraction should be an expression of true love, in which you commit to being faithful in marriage to a husband or wife, for life. Such total gift of self-body, emotions and soul – is a great responsibility and requires careful preparation and total commitment by both parents.

You are called to share with God in the creation of new life through the rearing of children in a loving family which is itself a reflection of God's love.

You are loved by God who shows compassion when things go wrong, who helps to heal wounded relationships, who forgives when our actions fail to match our ideals.

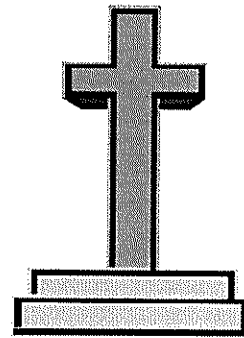
The teaching of such issues is done in a sensitive and pastoral manner and can be supported by external speakers, conferences and other provision as appropriate during the session. Such teaching is consistent with the guidance provided in the Catholic Education Commission's Report on Relationships and Moral Education.

Further information on the national programme is available from the website at: www.calledtolove.org.uk

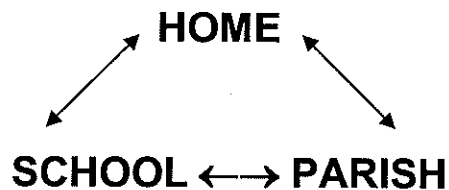
COMMENT

Increasingly our young people are confronted by a range of views which differ from those encouraged in our Catholic Schools. It is important therefore that all our pupils/students are encouraged to think about themselves and issues which confront them in the context of a clearly defined values system to enable them to make reasoned choices. Indeed the 'VALUES FOR LIFE' programme produced by the Catholic Education Commission was designed specifically with this in mind. This involves knowledge and understanding and requires an encouragement of our young people to see themselves in a positive light to enable them to stand up for their beliefs. The Faith and Learning Programme and the Faith and Teaching Programme prepared by the Catholic Education Commission both set out the task facing teachers, parents and the Church in supporting our young people:-

"Building School Communities which are animated by Gospel Values is a challenge for all concerned with Catholic Education. It demands openness and a readiness to be self-critical; it means examining practice, identifying difficulties, addressing weaknesses; it means being prepared to work with others to build a distinctive vision of education that permeates all aspects of the learning and living process in a school".



In sex and moral education Trinity High aims to meet this challenge in partnership with parents and the Church and in so doing send forth our young people confident and knowledgeable about their Faith and ready to take their place as responsible, caring members of society.



M A Renfrew
Headteacher

