

LEVEL D (Children up to P7)

"Many Catholic parents turn to the church for help in taking up the task of providing guidance and suggestions for educating their children....in childhood and adolescence" TMHS 1. (TMHS = Truth & Meaning of Human Sexuality, Vatican Publication 1995)

Parents should help their children to:

- Be able to have a healthy view of oneself.
- Be able to recognise and be grateful for one's gifts, talents and abilities.
- Distinguish things about themselves which they can change and those they cannot change.
- Describe aspects of their own personality and how others might see them.
- Identify some of the people in their lives who they trust and explain the trustworthy qualities they see in them.
- Be aware that people may act differently in the same situation.
- Recognise that self-control is not only a measure of one's character but can also be a great asset in difficult situations.
- Be aware of their own dignity and respect the dignity of others.
- Understand that respect for others is rooted in respect for ourselves.
- Realise that respecting others means recognising the dignity which belongs to all God's people.

- Appreciate that trust is a vital element but is only possible when people respect and deal fairly with each other.
- Understand that all life comes from God's creation and deserves respect – this also means having respect for the natural world.
- Understand that there are some people who are not trustworthy, would tell them lies or encourage them to act in a way in which they would be uncomfortable.
- Express ideas about the security and strength of family life despite its ups and downs.
- Be aware that they are expected to contribute to the building up of family life as well as take from it.
- Develop their ideas and knowledge of rules and how valuable they can be.
- Be able to show that the rules of the Church are given to us to help us to live as God's children.
- Articulate positive ways in which other people see them, distinguishing between the superficial (their outward appearance) and the profound (their inner qualities).

Parents should be the first to impart this information in relation to human life and should do so with great delicacy, clearly and at the appropriate time (TMHS75)

Parents should choose when to commence this instruction and may feel that it is appropriate to introduce the topic at an earlier or later time.

- With the help of parents they should talk about their evolving emotions.
- Demonstrate their understanding of growth in plant life.

- With the help of their parents and teachers be able to further explore the scientific development of human life – how it is conceived and develops.
- Be at ease with physical terminology.
- Be able to explain some of the rules and laws which promote safety and good health.
- Appreciate that they have been called into membership of the family of God and share the life of Christ as members of his Body, The Church.
- Appreciate the importance of prayer and reflection in dealing with emotions.
- Appreciate that one of the greatest examples of trust is to commit oneself to another in marriage.
- Understand that marriage is both a sacrament and a vocation.
- Have some understanding that babies should be conceived as the fruit of a loving married relationship.
- Begin to have a clear understanding of what is meant by "loyalty" – to each other and to God.

**In Scottish Catholic schools
teachers will be helping parents
to share these values
with the children in their care
so it is really important
that parents talk
with their children at home.
A booklet called
"Guidance for parents and teachers"
is available.
Enquire at your school or parish**