

6th Class



CATHOLIC MARRIAGE CARE SERVICE

ACCORD Dublin Schools Programme

St. Kevin's, Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 Tel: (01) 459 5226

RELATIONSHIP AND SEXUALITY PROGRAMME

The ACCORD programme for 6th class pupils is an extremely holistic approach to a very special period in the lives of young people. It offers them a chance to explore how they will develop during adolescence and into adulthood. The programme examines the four areas involved in the development of all human beings and explores the area of relationships by discussing the elements involved in friendships and how we relate to others in our lives.

Intellectual Development:

This allows the children an opportunity to discuss issues such as responsibility, appropriate behaviour and the connection between action and consequence. It also allows them an opportunity to understand more fully the responsibility of parents to their children.

Emotional Development:

It is quite normal for our young adolescents to become quite sensitive at this time. Mood swings are as much a part of growing up as getting taller, if somewhat more difficult to deal with, both by parents and the children themselves. There will be lots of opportunity to discuss this and other issues which often cause some confusion for the emerging adolescent.

Spiritual Development:

The spiritual development of the young person is dealt with by examining their uniqueness. We are all unique creations of God and therefore we deserve to be treated respectfully and lovingly. They will be encouraged to be inclusive and not discriminate on the grounds of religion, race, colour etc. They will also be encouraged to develop their spiritual side by being caring towards others and developing a sense of justice.

Physical Development:

This will include information on the various hormones involved in the body development, the various ways in which both boys and girls bodies develop, conception, pregnancy and birth.

All of the material discussed is age appropriate and delivered in a respectful and clearly understandable way. It gives the participants an opportunity to ask questions in a respectful environment as opposed to a lot of the misinformation received from both the media and friends.

This programme is delivered to approximately eighty per cent of primary schools in the Dublin Diocese, 380 schools and growing each year, which gives the facilitators a wealth of experience in this area.

Because this can be an extremely sensitive subject all of our facilitators have been especially selected and trained to deal with it in a respectful, honest and child friendly format.

Anita Conlan
School Team Co-ordinator.

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