

TEACHING HUMAN SEXUALITY IN THE KIMBERLEY



Discussion:

What is the reality of the students you teach?

What are the influences on how they view sexuality?

When do you have the opportunity to promote the Catholic vision of human sexuality in all learning areas?

THE RELIGIOUS DIMENSION OF EDUCATION IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Guidelines for Reflection and Renewal

42. Partnership between a Catholic school and the families of the students must continue and be strengthened: not simply to be able to deal with academic problems that may arise, but rather so that the educational goals of the school can be achieved. Close cooperation with the family is especially important when treating sensitive issues such as religious, moral, or sexual education, orientation toward a profession, or a choice of one's vocation in life. It is not a question of convenience, but a partnership based on faith. Catholic tradition teaches that God has bestowed on the family its own specific and unique educational mission.

In a Catholic context, the purpose of . . . education in human sexuality, whether formal or informal, is threefold:

1. To give each learner an understanding of the nature and importance of sexuality as a divine gift, a fundamental component of personality, and an enrichment of the whole person--body, emotions, soul--whose deepest meaning is to lead the person to the gift of self in love.

2. To give each learner an appreciation of chastity as a virtue that develops a person's authentic maturity and makes him or her capable of guiding the sexual instinct in the service of love and integrating it into his or her psychological and spiritual development.

3. To give each learner an appreciation of the human and Christian values that sexuality is intended to express and to lead each learner to a knowledge of, respect for, and sincere personal adherence to the moral norms regarding sexuality that are taught by the Church.

Teachers who provide education in sexuality are working hand-in-hand with and supporting parents/primary caretakers in their responsibilities to provide sexuality education.

It is important that teachers:

1. Have an exact and complete vision of the meaning and value of sexuality and a peaceful integration of this within themselves
2. Understand and appreciate the Church's teachings on human sexuality and live them out in their lives.
3. 3. Articulate and present the Church's teachings clearly.
4. 4. Be personally mature, integrated and responsible in their own sexuality.

Teachers are to:

1. Articulate the Church teachings in a positive way, sensitive to the ages and psychological/moral development stages of the individual learners.
2. Know not only the complete and accurate biological information, but also the moral, psychological, and spiritual elements of human sexuality.

3. Be sensitive to the pressures and tensions experienced by young people in today's society.

4. Communicate with parents, making every effort to create a bond of trust with them, so as to present a unified, coherent view to the children.

5. Be sensitive to the varying family configurations and situations of the students, as well as the multicultural dimensions operative in their lives.

SACRED CONGREGATION FOR
CATHOLIC EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE
IN HUMAN LOVE

Outlines for sex education

SIGNIFICANCE OF SEXUALITY

Sexuality is an integral part of the development of personality and its educative process

Education in the first place, is the duty of the family,...the best environment to accomplish the obligation of securing a gradual education in sexual life.

...the role of the school should be that of assisting and completing the work of parents, furnishing children and adolescents with an evaluation of “sexuality as value and task of the whole person, created male and female in the image of God”.



In order to offer correct sex education, appropriate teaching materials can be of assistance. ... such materials requires the contribution of specialists in moral and pastoral theology, ...

Some school text-books on sexuality, ...are harmful to the child and the adolescent.



It is recommended that parents attentively follow every form of sex education that is given to their children outside the home, *removing their children whenever this education does not correspond to their own principles.* However, such a decision of the parents must not become grounds for discrimination against their children. On the other hand, parents who remove their children from such instruction have the duty to give them an adequate formation, appropriate to each child or young person's stage of development.

THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE FAMILY: THE TRUTH AND
MEANING
OF HUMAN SEXUALITY - *Guidelines for Education within the Family*

HUMAN SEXUALITY CONTENT K-12 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM





The
TEACHING
of
HUMAN
SEXUALITY

GUIDELINES FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

*This document has been approved by the
Catholic Bishops of Western Australia.*

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS



"THINGS ARE CHANGING!" PACKAGE

~Choicez Media



Facilitors Manual + DVD

Parent/Child Pack



FEATURES

- Australian
- Modern
- Catholic teaching
- Values-based
- Notes the need for critical literacy
- Reinforces the belief that schools ASSIST and SUPPORT parents in their role as primary educators of their children.
- Includes a DVD and facilitator manual for a parent night at a primary school; a parent-daughter manual, DVD and workbook or a parent-son manual, DVD and workbook.
- The separate DVD's and workbooks explore specific issues relevant to the gender of each child in the privacy of the home.

SUGGESTED USE

- When run as a part of the school curriculum, parental permission be obtained and the program run within the context of a parent/child night.
- * Following the session split the class into males/females and look at the gender DVD and go through some of the information/activities. These pack build upon the general session and contains comprehensive information specific to boys and girls about the changes they will face.

THE FACILITATOR'S PACK

A 25 minute DVD providing an overview of the physical changes that occur during puberty as well as a basic understanding of the male and female reproductive systems.

A facilitator manual that demonstrates how to use the package ~ ideas and information.



THE PARENT/CHILD TAKE HOME PACKAGES

Include a DVD, parent book and student workbook on CD-Rom that go into the finer details of the changes specific to boys and girls.



K-12 Content Course for Accreditation -
Understanding Catholic Teaching about
Human Sexuality (2 Day Course)

7-8 July or 18-19 November, PERTH

Rationale: To enhance teachers'
understanding of key scriptural and
theological topics

Marriage

Contraception

Recent teaching and sources

Presenter - Fr Joe Parkinson