



# Sacred Heart School

Service Before Self

**Mission Statement:**

The Sacred Heart is a Community committed to the education of its pupils in a Catholic Christian ethos, where each person is invited to serve God and others in faith, hope and love.

**Aims:**

- To foster spiritual growth in Christian faith and values
- To value, appreciate and enjoy learning
- To work for excellence
- To further curiosity and creativity
- To aspire to high ideals

*Pastoral Policies*

## Relationships Policy

### Philosophy behind the policy

The Sacred Heart School acknowledges that it is quite normal for there to be friendships between pupils, however, the school does not believe that it is in the interest of boys or girls for such friendships to be overbearing. The guidelines below are in place to ensure that the behaviour of pupils vis a vis their relationships with one another are appropriate and discrete.

The underlying principle in respect of pupils' relationships with one another is one of trust. However these guidelines define the way in which pupils are expected to conduct themselves.

The Sacred Heart School holds fast to the core values of the Catholic Christian faith and emphasises the need to prepare pupils for stable relationships within that context. Sexual relationships are discussed in PSHEE lessons. The sanctity of marriage is discussed in Religious Studies lessons, assemblies and Masses.

### Relationships

The school seeks to discourage friendships between older and younger pupils. Friendships between individuals having an age difference greater than two academic years would generally not be considered to be appropriate. However, senior pupils are encouraged to play an active role in the pastoral care of younger children in their House.

Public displays of affection are not acceptable during the school day, or while arriving at, or leaving, the premises. During breaks and lunchtimes, pupils may chat or sit together as part of a larger group, but are not permitted to find a quiet place to be alone. Pupils may not contact each other by texting or emailing when on school premises.

At all times pupils need to behave in a manner that will not cause embarrassment or offence to staff or other pupils. Behaviour which goes beyond that which is deemed to be acceptable will lead to sanctions being applied to those involved. The sanctions applied will take account of the age of the pupils involved and the degree to which the school rules on sexual intimacy have been broken.