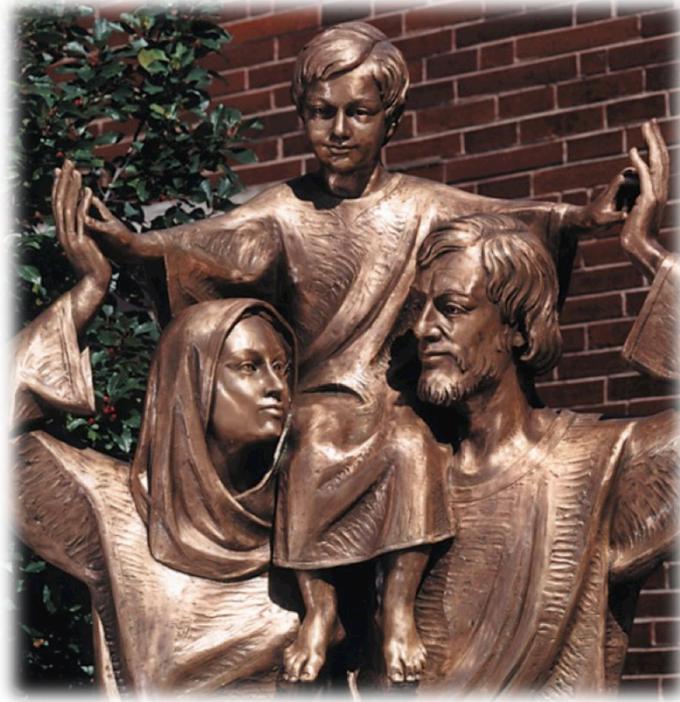


# God's Loving Plan:

Guidance on teaching about  
loving relationships

In Catholic primary schools



Interim Guidance:

Resources and final Publication anticipated

January 2014 - SCES

## Prayer



God our loving Father,  
You have blessed us with the precious gift of life  
You have created us with abilities and capacities,  
and with the potential for doing good.  
Help us to realise the plans you have for us.  
Enable us to cherish the sanctity of human life  
and the precious gift of our bodies.  
Strengthen our resolve when we struggle to follow Jesus.  
May your Holy Spirit inspire us to show love for others  
and to find love in all the good we do.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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It finds its locus within the context of Catholic Teaching about the dignity of each human person, created in the image and likeness of God, endowed with a fundamental Vocation to love, redeemed by Jesus Christ and called to live in love, in peace, and in unity with others.

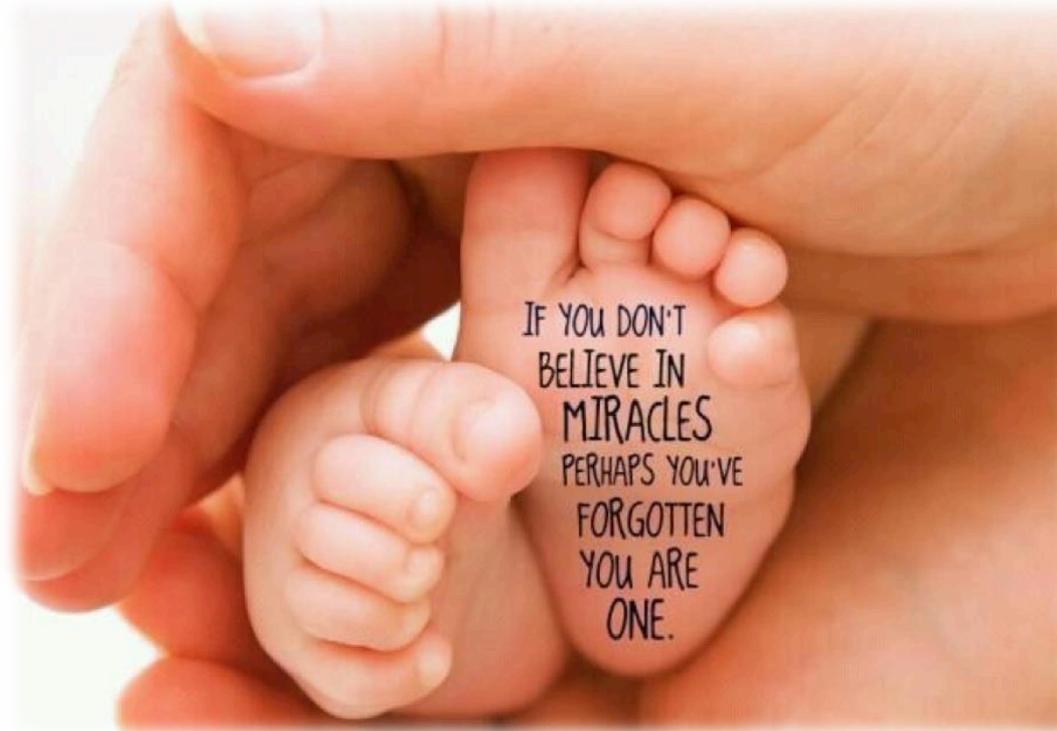


Moral thinking and teaching is formulated according to the principles of "fidelity to God and fidelity to the human person" as set out in This Is Our Faith (Section 1, page 14) The Scottish syllabus for Religious Education in Catholic schools.



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Catholic Teaching affirms:

- the sanctity of life
- the primacy of marriage as the context for the upbringing of children
- the fundamental dignity and worth of all persons

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Relationships and Moral Education in the setting of a Catholic School will seek to offer learners:

- Values and principles to guide moral actions
- Experience of relationships which are sustainable and affirmative
- Opportunities to grow spiritually through prayer which will nourish a personal relationship with God, personal integrity and respect for others

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developing physically



developing emotionally



developing spiritually

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### Aims of Relationships and Moral Education

In line with the aims established in core documents guiding the teaching of Religious Education in Catholic Schools, the main aims of Relationships and Moral Education in a Catholic school are:

*To develop learners' knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Christian faith relating to the moral life:*

- the sources and principles of moral teaching
- an understanding and appreciation of their relevance to life
  - appreciating the beauty of creation and the dignity of the human person as the context in which knowledge and understanding of the world is set.

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**"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit..."**

**1 Corinthians 6:19**

**temple of the Holy Spirit**

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### Aims of Relationships and Moral Education

In line with the aims established in core documents guiding the teaching of Religious Education in Catholic Schools, the main aims of Relationships and Moral Education in a Catholic school are:

*To develop skills in moral decision-making, vocational discernment and critical thinking, leading to a maturing ability to apply moral principles to their own lives  
And to major issues in the moral sphere.*

- Support in the formation of conscience
- Positive and personal response to issues of morality and interpersonal relationships
- Enabling children to develop the skills necessary to keep themselves safe
  - from harm and abuse

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respecting my body and my soul

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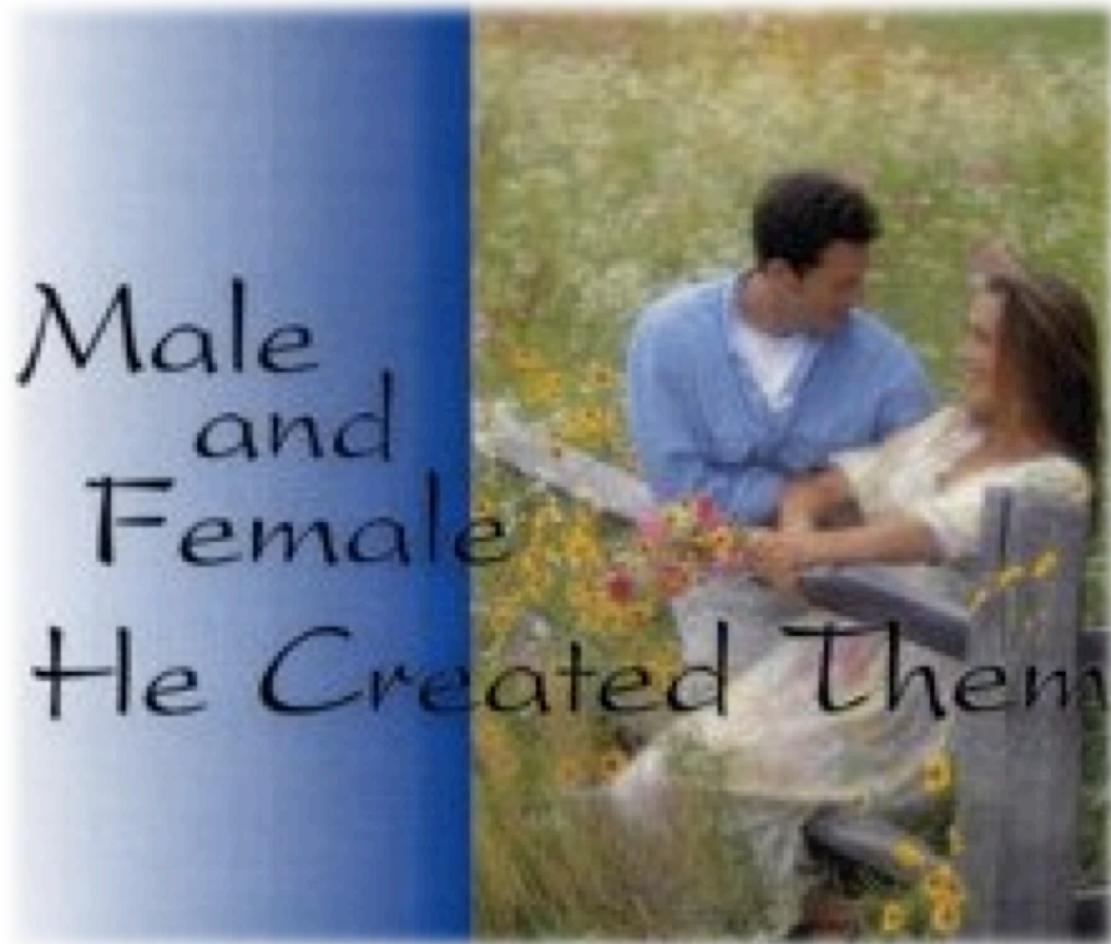
***To exemplify and foster those beliefs, values and practices Relevant to the moral sphere.***

- Relationships and moral education draws on personal experience and development while offering a vision for life which is healthy, sustainable and life-affirming.

It helps young people to embrace virtues such as faithfulness, modesty and chastity,

- And those values based on the Beatitudes and the Gospel as a whole, such as respect, honesty, compassion and trust.

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Sexuality is a gift from God

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sexual intercourse



virtuous person: hope, love and faith



Ephesians 4:32

*Be kind and compassionate  
to one another, forgiving each other,  
just as in Christ God forgave you.*

disposition to be good

BE OF GOOD COURAGE,  
AND HE SHALL  
STRENGTHEN  
YOUR HEART,  
ALL YE THAT  
HOPE IN THE  
LORD. PSALM 31:24



acting in a spirit of courage



# H·U·M·B·L·E H·E·A·R·T

THE HIGHEST FORM OF PRAYER COMES FROM THE DEPTHS OF A HUMBLE  
HEART.

acting in a spirit of sacrifice



acting in a spirit of service



inform my conscience



Respect for human life:  
from conception to natural death



God, the author of life



6<sup>th</sup> Commandment:  
Be faithful in marriage.



9<sup>th</sup> Commandment:  
do not covet your neighbour's wife



*Create in me  
a pure heart, O God,  
and renew  
a steadfast spirit  
within me.  
Psalm 51:10*

created in the image and likeness of God



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Other aspects of learning for life, personal decision-making and health from Health and Wellbeing is embedded in the whole of Curriculum for Excellence.

This seeks to enable children and young people to:

- make informed decisions in order to improve their mental, emotional, social and physical well-being
  - experience challenge and enjoyment
- experience positive aspects of healthy living and activity for themselves
- Apply their mental, emotional, social and physical skills to pursue a healthy lifestyle
  - Make a successful move to the next stage of education
  - Establish a pattern of Health and Wellbeing into adult life, promoting the health and wellbeing of future generations of young Scots.

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*All learning and teaching in Relationships and Moral Education will, in accordance with Catholic teaching:*

*- be appropriate to the age and maturity of the child*



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*All learning and teaching in Relationships and Moral Education will, in accordance with Catholic teaching:*

- *Recognise the rights of parents, and their role as the "first teachers" of their children in these matters, Parental meetings: consult, and inform them of timing, content and content of such learning.*



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*All learning and teaching in Relationships and Moral Education will, in accordance with Catholic teaching:*

- *Promote a vision of the sanctity of human life, the integrity of the body and the centrality of the family*



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*All learning and teaching in Relationships and Moral Education will, in accordance with Catholic teaching:*

- *Promote respect for self and for others as a fundamental value for living*

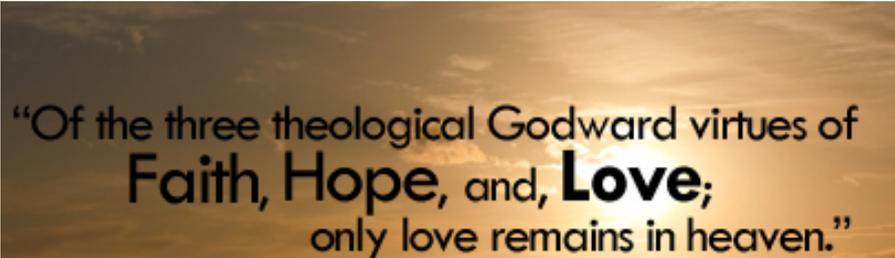


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*All learning and teaching in Relationships and Moral Education will, in accordance with Catholic teaching:*

- *engage in practices of reflection and discernment, particularly focused on the importance of personal responsibility and virtue.*



“Of the three theological Godward virtues of Faith, Hope, and, **Love**; only love remains in heaven.”

## CARDINAL VIRTUES

4 moral virtues that all other virtues hinge upon

Wise judgment (Prudence)

Justice

Courage (Fortitude)

Wholeness (Temperance)

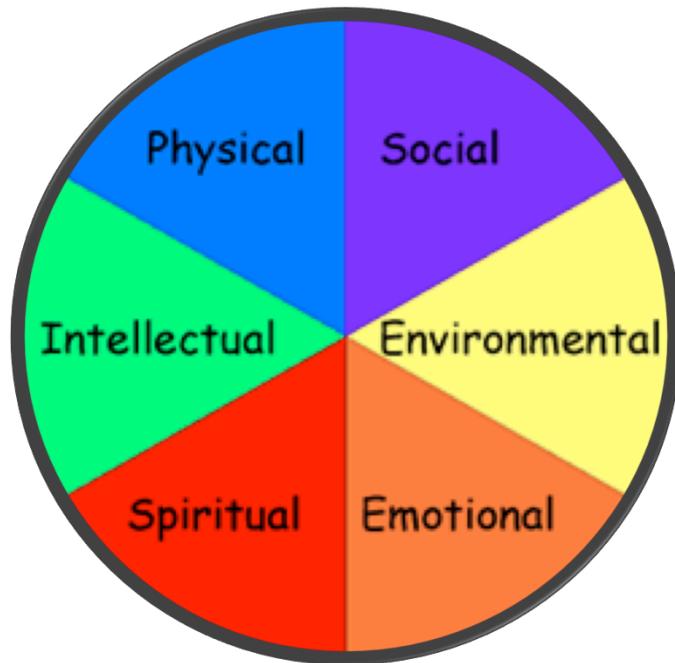
*Wise Judgment comes first in importance because it includes both the ability to make decisions according to a well-formed conscience and the willingness to carry out these decisions. (p.95)*

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*All learning and teaching in Relationships and Moral Education will, in accordance with Catholic teaching:*

- *Promote choices which foster a healthy lifestyle, emotionally, spiritually and physically.*



**HOLINESS = WHOLENESS**

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*All learning and teaching in Relationships and Moral Education will, in accordance with Catholic teaching:*

- *recognise the rights of children and young people to have their consciences formed and their freedom respected.*

Free will, though it makes evil possible,  
is also the only thing that makes possible  
any love or goodness or joy worth having.

- C. S. Lewis



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*All learning and teaching in Relationships and Moral Education will, in accordance with Catholic teaching:*

*present single life, marriage and family and the religious life as valued vocational life-choices, and marriage as the appropriate context for sexual activity, understood as the fruit of a life-long, committed relationship of self-giving, faithful and fruitful love between a man and woman*



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Life-long faithful union of marriage



single life

witness awakens vocations



priesthood





celibate life

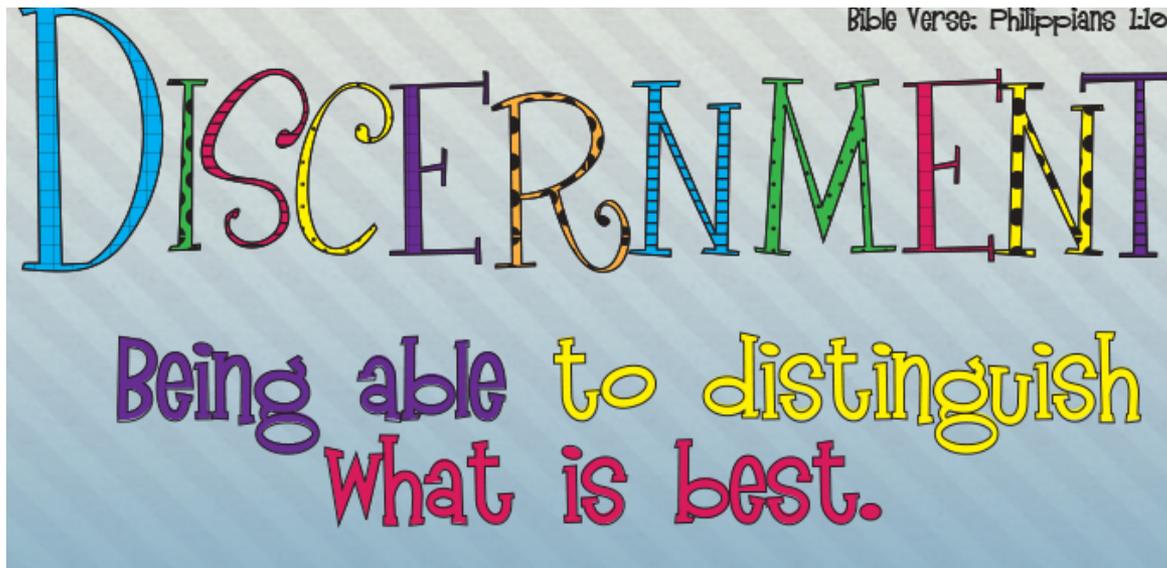


religious life: nuns await visit  
from Pope Benedict XVI at  
WYD Madrid 2011

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*All learning and teaching in Relationships and Moral Education will, in accordance with Catholic teaching:*

- *all this to be set in the context of appreciation for the gift of creation, the gift of self and the gift of others, and within a wider growth of spiritual life and in relevant skills of moral discernment*



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*Parents are the First Educators of their children...*

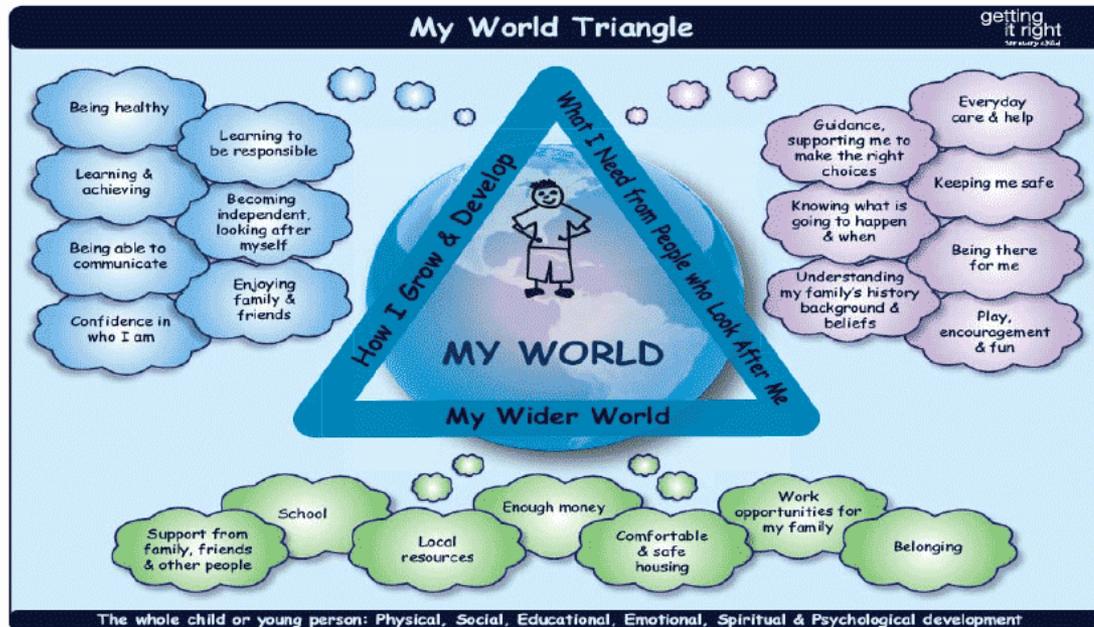


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When planning for provision of relationships and moral education in school, teachers should be sensitive to the views of parents as to their children's stage of physical, emotional development.

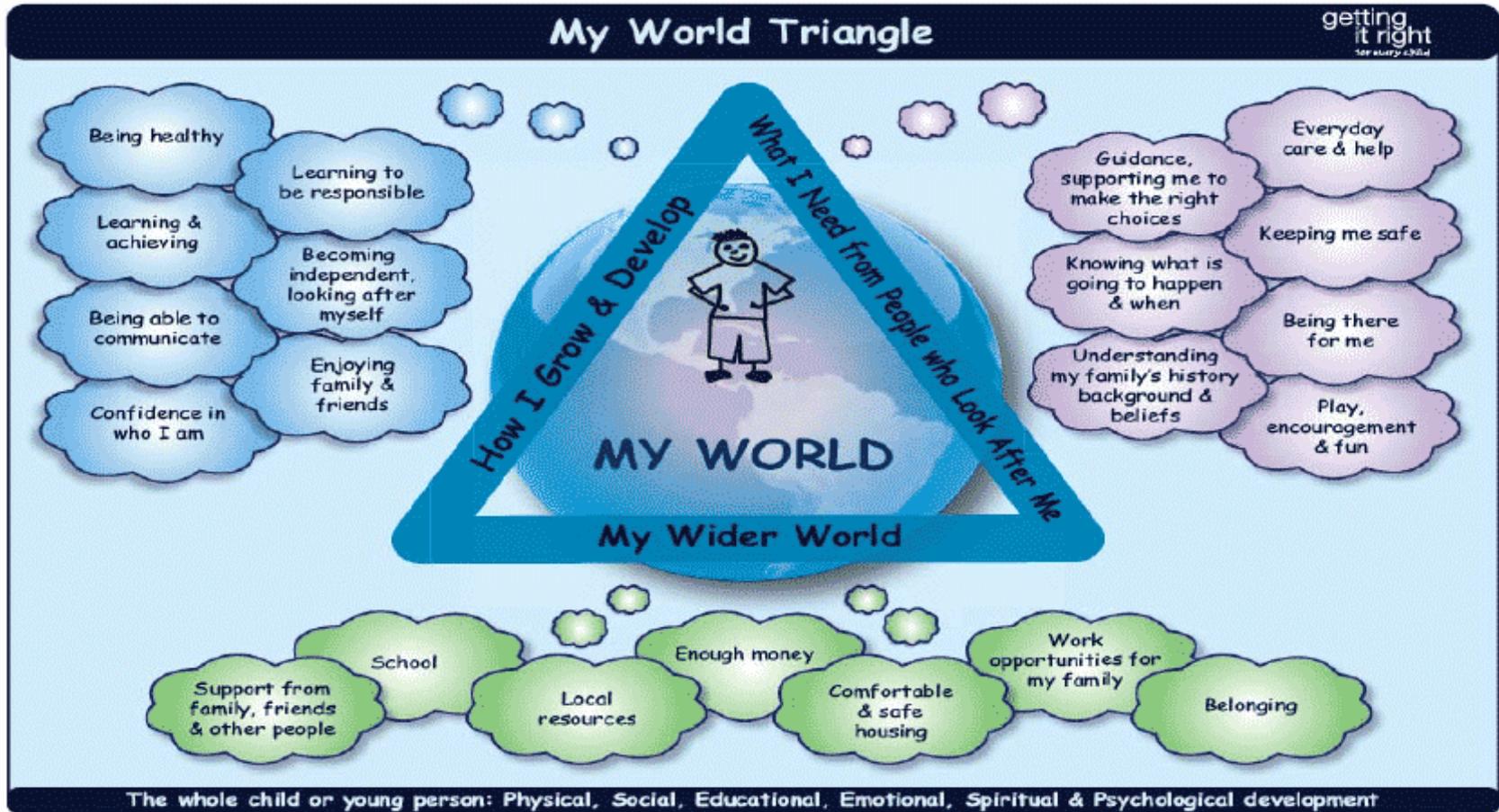


They should recognise that there can be considerable variation in the stages of maturity in young people, even within the same age group.

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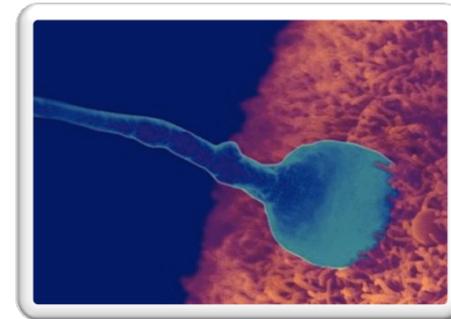


*Working with other agencies:*

*Multi-agency approach*

*Health Professionals*

*The Church affirms the Head Teacher's responsibility in determining appropriate content and delivery of all aspects of relationships education.*



*A key expectation is that all colleagues who work in a Catholic school will respect the principles of the school's approach and not promulgate moral views which are at odds with the teaching of the Catholic Church.*

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