

Relationships & Sexuality Education

Policies

Relationships & Sexuality Education

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is an integral part of the larger Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) programme. RSE is a lifelong process of acquiring knowledge and understanding, of developing attitudes, beliefs and values about sexual identity, relationships and intimacy within a moral, social and spiritual framework. At primary level RSE aims to help children learn at home and in school about their own development and about their friendships and relationships with others. This work will be based on developing a good self image, promoting respect for themselves and others and providing them with age appropriate information.

AIMS OF OUR RSE PROGRAMME

1. To enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well-being of the child.
2. To help the child to develop healthy friendships and relationships
3. To foster an understanding of, and a healthy attitude to human sexuality and relationship in a moral, spiritual and social framework
4. To enable the child to acquire an understanding of and respect for human love, sexual intercourse and reproduction
5. To develop and promote in the child a sense of wonder and awe at the process of birth and new life.
6. To enable the child to be comfortable with the sexuality of oneself and others while growing and developing.

The content of the RSE programme covers the following themes.....

Myself and my identity

Myself, family friends.

Feelings and emotions.

Choices.

Physical Growth

New life.

The full course content is available in the school.

GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION OF RSE IN OUR SCHOOL

The contents of the RSE programme and the method of teaching to be used are outlined in the NCCA 'RSE Curriculum and Guidelines for Primary schools. (Copies are available on request from the school) Issues such as confidentiality, parents' rights and responsibilities, including the withdrawal of pupils, visiting speakers, sensitive issues, class groupings and multi-class situations will be dealt with in the most sensitive manner possible.

RESOURCES

Walk Tall

Stay Safe

RSE Department Guidelines

Guest speakers
SPHE Department curricular Guidelines
North Eastern Health Board Health Programme for primary schools
Be Safe Programme
Earthlink programme
All around me programmes
My Wonderful World programme

APPROACHES AND METHODOLOGIES

1. Talk and discussion
2. Problem solving
3. Active learning which includes drama activities, co-operative games, written activities, use of media and information technologies,
4. Art and project work
5. Guestspeakers
6. Stories

TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

In order to successfully implement this plan the teaching staff have attended:

1. Child Abuse Prevention Programme (Stay Safe)
2. Substance Misuse Programme (Walk Tall)
3. Relationships and Sexuality Programme (RSE)
4. In-service seminars in 2002-4 by the Primary Curriculum Support Programme
5. The teaching staff will continue to attend courses and seminars on the subject

SUCCESS CRITERIA/ASSESSMENT

1. Self-assessment: An end of year check that all agreed strand units have been covered.
2. Pupil assessment: p70-77.
3. Teacher observation, oral and /or written tests on information or knowledge based units of programme, portfolios and project work
4. Department of Education and Science inspector assessments

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We, the principal and teaching staff, believe that SPHE is a shared responsibility between family, school, health professionals and the community. We see ourselves supporting the home in this lifelong process and will seek at all times to develop positive relations with all these parties.

Please note:

1. *Parents have the right to withdraw their children from part or all of the RSE and Stay Safe programmes. As children are enrolled in the school their parents will be given a copy of this document and written consent for their children to be taught the entire programme will be sought.*
2. *6th class boys and girls participate in a Sex Education information day conducted by teachers in the school. Fifth class girls also participate in a sex education information day. Parents/guardians are informed of the content of these days in advance and may withdraw their children if they so wish.*
3. *Teachers are within their rights to decide not to teach part or all of the RSE programme. Alternative arrangements will be made for the class.*

STAY SAFE PROGRAMME

Glynn N.S. teaches the Stay Safe Programme, a teaching package designed for use in Irish Primary Schools. It was researched and developed by the Child Abuse Prevention Programme. The principal aim of the programme is to prevent both physical and sexual abuse of children. The Stay Safe programme is taught in Glynn N.S. as part of the RSE programme and the SPHE programmes. It is our aim that our pupils will develop and grow socially, personally and emotionally. We hope that they will come to value friendship and the many relationships they will form with other people.

We will consistently and continually help them to do this by teaching them the values of respect, kindness, effort and responsibility. Children will be encouraged to be tolerant of others and understanding towards children who are different from themselves. They will be encouraged to take responsibility for each other's well-being and happiness.

Children in Senior Infants, Third and Fifth classes participate in formal lessons on the Stay Safe Programme. The lessons are revised with children in other classes.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to become involved by discussing each lesson with their child and helping their child to complete each worksheet based on the lessons in the programme.

The same topics are explored in all classes but obviously the precise content will vary to be age and class appropriate.

1. Feeling safe and unsafe
2. Bullying
3. Touches
4. Secrets/Telling
5. Strangers

Reviewed and approved by the Board of Management in June 2014.