



Scoil an Linbh Íosa

RSE Policy

Introduction:

The purpose of this document is to provide you with a policy for implementing the relationships and sexuality education programme in our school.

The Policy has been drawn up by a sub-committee consisting of Parents, Teachers and Board of Management representatives in accordance with the directives issued by the Department of Education from 1996 onwards.

Overview of content for Third to Sixth Classes

	Third and Fourth Classes	Fifth and Sixth Classes
Strands	Strand units	Strand units
Myself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepting myself <i>Self-esteem</i> <i>Developing and expressing self- confidence</i> • Physical development • Growing and Changing • Birth and new life • Feelings and emotions • Personal hygiene • Personal Safety <i>Identifying and assessing risks</i> <i>Developing safety strategies</i> • Making decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepting myself <i>Self-esteem</i> <i>Developing and expressing self- confidence</i> • Physical development • Becoming an adult • Parenthood • Feelings and emotions • Personal Hygiene • Personal Safety <i>Identifying and assessing risks</i> <i>Developing Safety strategies</i> • Making decisions
Myself and Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myself and Others • Roles and responsibilities in families • Friendships • Portrayal of sexuality and relationships • Roles of males and females in society • Relating to others <i>Communicating Sharing and co-operating</i> <i>Resolving conflict</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing relationships in families and friendships • Group affiliation and loyalty • Portrayal of sexuality and relationships • Roles of males and females in society • Relating to others <i>Communicating</i> <i>Sharing and co-operating</i> <i>Resolving conflict</i>

Overview of content for Infant, First and Second Classes

	Infant Classes	First and Second Classes
Strands	Strand Units	Strand Units
Myself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am unique <i>Self esteem</i> <i>Developing and expressing self confidence</i> • My body • As I grow I change • New life • Keeping safe • Feelings and emotions • Making decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am unique <i>Self esteem</i> <i>Developing and expressing self confidence</i> • My body • As I grow I change • New life • Keeping safe • Feelings and emotions • Making decisions
Myself and Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myself and my family • Myself and my friends • Special people in my life • Relating to others <i>Communicating</i> <i>Sharing and co-operating</i> <i>Resolving conflict</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myself and my family • Myself and my friends • Special people in my life • Relating to others <i>Communicating</i> <i>Sharing and co-operating</i> <i>Resolving conflict</i>

A. Definition of Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)

At primary school 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:
- Communication skills
- A good self image
- Respect for themselves and others
- Appropriate information

RSE aims to help children think and act in a moral, caring and responsible way.

B. Relationship of RSE to Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE)

RSE is an integral part of SPHE and must be taught in this context

It provides structured opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding of relationships and human sexuality through processes which will enable them to form values and establish behaviours within a moral, spiritual and social framework.

In particular, it addresses relationships and the meaning of human sexuality, growth and development, relevant personal and social skills and aspects of parenting.

C. What the School currently provides

The School currently provides:

- Discipline Policy
- Stay Safe Programme
- Children's Rights Information Bureau (CRIB) Counselling
- Workshop on growing up and sexuality (Senior Classes)
- The Children of God and "Alive O" series;
- ISPCC counselling on an individual/parent basis
- Physical Education
- Social and Environmental Education

D. The aims of RSE

The aims of RSE are to:

- Enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well being of the child
- Help the child to develop healthy friendships and relationships
- Foster an understanding of, and a healthy attitude to, human sexuality and relationships in a moral, spiritual and social framework
- Enable the child to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, human love, sexual intercourse and reproduction
- Develop and promote in the child a sense of wonder and awe at the process of birth and new life
- Enable the child to be comfortable with the sexuality of self and others while growing and developing

- Help children learn how to communicate, make decisions, and express feelings
- Gain an understanding of the influences of peer groups and culture upon his/her behaviour

E. Guidelines for the management and organization of RSE in our School

The content of the RSE Programme will be taught in both a structured and integrated manner. Since this will be done in partnership with parents/guardians, who are the primary educators in all matters, they are strongly encouraged to consult with the class teacher at the beginning of each year regarding areas of concern. If desired, withdrawal from specific parts of the programme can be arranged in a confidential and sensitive way.

The school reserves the right to invite qualified visiting speakers to work with senior pupils. These speakers will work within the confines of the school policy and parents/guardians will be notified in advance of their attendance. The division of the class into smaller groups and/or single sex groups will be at the discretion of the staff. Every effort will be made to have gender balance when selecting speakers.

Since the school is a Catholic school the teaching will be in accordance with the moral teaching of the Catholic Church. Teachers will strive to do this in an appropriate and non-judgmental manner.

F. Provision for ongoing support and development

It is the aim of the school to:

- Ensure that teachers will have access to in-career development opportunities
- Support parents/guardians in providing educational opportunities for other parents/guardians
- Provide RSE School resources as recommended by the Department of Education and Science

G. Evaluation

A review of the programme will be carried out by the policy committee on the completion of its first year of operation. Any necessary amendments arising from this process will be implemented.

Any further reviews of the policy are the responsibility of the Board of Management