
SLIEVEARDAGH N.S.

RSE POLICY

Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy

Introductory Statement

The school has a responsibility to put in place an R.S.E. policy as part of the wider, Social, Personal and Health Education strand of the curriculum. It is delivered in the lines with the Catholic ethos of the school.

Rationale

The need for this policy arises from our schools obligation to provide for all the needs of the student body and respond appropriately to sensitive and emotive issues relating to emerging sexuality.

Aims

- a) To enhance the personal development, well being and self-esteem of each child.
- b) To enable each child to gain an understanding of and respect for human love, reproduction and sexual activity in a sensitive and measured way.
- c) To enable the child develop healthy friendships and relationships.

* Parents have the right to withhold their children from participating in R.S.E classes. This must be in writing by the parents stating the reason why they are with holding the child from the RSE classes.

School Provision

Strand Units

Myself -

Self identity, taking care of my body, growing and changing, safety and protection.

Myself and Others –

Myself and family, friends and relating to other people.

Taking Care of My Body –

Naming parts of the male and female body using appropriate terminology (Junior and Lower Middle

classes). Identifying physical changes,
Understanding puberty and the Reproductive
System (Senior Classes)

Growing and Changing – The stages of development of a baby from
conception to birth (Middle Classes).
Understanding sexual relations within the context of
a committed loving relationship (Senior Classes).

Teachers do not cover topics such as contraception and same sex relationships. Children who ask questions in class on content outside the curriculum are advised that the teacher can not give this information. Children are encouraged to talk to their parents about this material / questions.

Methodology

Circle time is used extensively in Junior Classes to build confidence and address fears. Boys and girls are taught together in all classes. Senior pupils are treated in a mature way and are encouraged to discuss issues that arise with their parents.

The Stay Safe and Walk Tall programmes.

The Stay Safe and Walk Tall programme is taught in accordance with our SPHE 2 yearly Plan. Aspects of the programme such as bullying and Stay Safe – sensitive lessons are revised in all classes.

Mrs. Looby, Principal, speaks to all students and from 4th to 6th class every year where issues such as physical and emotional development, bodily changes and sexual awakening are explored.

- **Topics covered up to 2nd class include:-**
 - Keeping safe.
 - Naming bodily parts using correct terminology.
 - Bodily changes during growth and development.
 - Making and keeping friends.
 - Making age appropriate choices.
 - Appreciating family life.

- Recognizing and expressing feelings.
 - Self care, hygiene, diet, exercise and sleep (link with P.E. Healthy Eating Policy and S.P.H.E.)
 - Expressing opinions and listening to others.
- **Topics covered from 3rd to 6th Classes include:-**
 - Bodily changes. (4th class up)
 - Healthy eating, personal hygiene, exercise.
 - Keeping safe.
 - Expressing feelings.
 - Family relationships.
 - Making healthy and responsible decisions.
 - Forming friendships.
 - Reproduction, conception (5th and 6th Classes only)

Bodily changes and reproduction and conception are taught using the HSE Busy Bodies Programme. This programme is taught in 4 stages throughout the year.

Guidelines for Management

Parents have the primary responsibility for educating their children in sexual matters. The school R.S.E. programme acts as a support only to parents, and parents retain the right to withdraw their children from classes. The programme is taught within the ethos of the school and contemporary issues/topics are dealt with by the teacher at a level appropriate to the age and stage of development of pupils within a moral and spiritual framework. Parents are always advised beforehand when RSE lessons will be taught and are encouraged to discuss with their child before lessons are taught in school. This also gives parents an opportunity to ask questions if necessary.

Child Protection

The school follows the D.E.S. child protection guidelines and has a Child Protection policy with the Principal as Designated Liaison Person. In cases of disclosure;

the D.L.P. will follow the procedures as set out in Children First.

Teacher Choice/Staff Development

The teacher's right to choose is enshrined in the policy and if teachers do not wish to teach specific aspects of the programme or require additional resources, a suitable speaker will be employed by the B.O.M... The teacher may need to plan the specific material to be covered and should be present during the talk.

Each teacher is responsible for his/her long term and short term planning comprising of a yearly and fortnightly scheme of work. A Cuntas Miosuil is retained by the Principal

School/Community Links

The school is involved in:-

- Cumann na mBunscoil – football, hurling and camogie.
- Choir for First Communion and choir for Confirmation every year.
- Library
 - Write a Poem Competition

Evaluation

- Teacher observation.
- Ensuring all strands are covered.
- Teacher designed tasks and tests and self-evaluation.
- Community feedback.

Roles and Responsibilities

The whole school community of B.O.M., staff, pupils and parents play a key role in the formulation and implementation of the plan.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the B.O.M.

Signed: Chairperson: _____

Implementation

Implementation from September 2014

Review

This policy will be reviewed as necessary.

Ratified by the Board of Management

Signed _____ (Chairperson BOM)