

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION (RSE) POLICY DOCUMENT

School Details: Scoil na Croise Naofa, Mahon. Cork. Roll Number 17024 I

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

As a coeducational school with a Catholic ethos our RSE policy will seek to communicate the Christian view of human life and human relationships promoting respect, tolerance and understanding within the school community. It is within this context that our RSE programme will be delivered in partnership with teachers, parents and members of the Board of Management. RSE will be taught in accordance with the Department's directives.

DEFINITION OF RSE

RSE aims to provide opportunities for children and young people to learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help them think and act in a moral, caring and responsible way. R.S.E. is central to the social, personal and moral development of the child. The education begins at home and the primary responsibility lies with each parent/guardian. The school hopes to support this process.

What the school currently provides

Various aspects of SPHE/RSE are, at present, being covered in existing curriculum subjects and programmes. These include the Alive O Religion programme, which seeks to develop the children's ability to relate to others and to have a positive attitude to their own sexuality. Other such programmes are the Stay Safe Programme, The Walk Tall Programme, Social and Environmental Studies, SPHE, Language Development Programme, The Physical Education Programme as well as Art, Music and Drama. An integrative approach towards RSE ensures that the pupils encounter RSE and Stay Safe in a holistic manner rather than in isolation.

AIMS OF R.S.E. PROGRAMME

1. To help young people develop healthy friendships and relationships
2. To promote an understanding of sexuality
3. To help children see, understand and accept and value difference
4. To promote a healthy attitude to sexuality and relationships
5. To help children recognise the importance of their own choices
6. To promote knowledge of and respect for reproduction
7. To enable young people to develop healthy attitudes and values towards their sexuality in a moral, spiritual and social framework which reflects Christian values
8. To enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well being of the child
9. To help children develop an understanding of self, their bodies and their feelings.

METHODS

Teaching methods will be based on sound teaching principles. They will be child-centered and appropriate to the age and stage of development of the pupil. The privacy of each individual pupil will be respected and all pupils will be treated with sensitivity and care, and all family structures will be respected.

TEACHING

All teachers in Scoil na Croise Naofa are requested by the Board of Management to teach the RSE programme in their respective classes. If a teacher has a particular concern in relation to a particular aspect of the programme, the Principal, or the post holder in charge of SPHE, may endeavour to make arrangements to bring in an outside speaker or put a team teaching arrangement into place to facilitate that teacher, only if absolutely necessary.

CHILDREN and PARENTS

If parents are concerned about any particular area of the programme they are welcome to visit the school and look at the content of the programme and discuss their concerns with the Principal. If they wish to withdraw their child from any area of the programme they must request this in writing to the Principal, who will then try to make alternative arrangements for that pupil.

The Principal will, in the interests of the child, advocate for the inclusion of all pupils in the programme.

EVALUATION

The programme will be evaluated regularly at the level of

- Pupils
- Teachers
- Parents
- Board of Management

PROVIDING FOR ONGOING SUPPORT, DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

Good home/school links are important in delivering the programme. Relevant educational resources will be made available to assist parents and teachers.

This policy is subject to review by the partners. It was reviewed by the Principal and minor adjustments made in March 2011.

These changes were ratified by the Board of Management on 5th April 2011.