

Policy on Relationships and Sexuality Education

School and Home

This policy was drawn up by a policy committee for Scoil an Chlochair Kilbeggan. The school recognises that the parent is the primary educator of the child. This RSE policy, as in all other policy areas, acknowledges this and seeks to support parents in this role. Our school fosters close contact between the school and the home. Parents and teachers support one another and collaborate with one another as partners in leading the young pupils to the fullness of their potential as they grow and mature.

Our School Philosophy

Scoil an Chlochair is a Roman Catholic School. As such we aim to promote the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, based on Gospel values. Within the school, a spirit of mutual respect is promoted between children, parents, teachers and members of the Board of Management. Pupils are drawn by example and teaching to appreciate and respect people of different religious affiliations and of different nationalities. Teachers are sensitive to the needs and particular circumstances of the pupils and supportive of their parents' role. The Relationships and Sexuality programme will be taught within this ethos. Within our school, we promote the following ideals:

- people feel valued
- self esteem is fostered
- respect, tolerance and fairness are evident
- high expectations and standards are promoted
- there is support for those with difficulties
- open communication is the norm
- effort is recognised and rewarded
- uniqueness/difference is valued
- conflict is handled constructively
- initiative and creativity are encouraged
- social, moral and civic values are promoted

The RSE programme will reflect these ideals.

DEFINITION OF RSE

Relationships and Sexuality Education is about gaining knowledge and understanding of physical, social, cultural, psychological and moral development. It includes attitudes, beliefs and values about relationships, sexual identity and intimacy within a moral, spiritual and social framework. This understanding of RSE will contribute to the development of personal well-being, will enhance personal relationships and will have positive implications for family and community life.

Scoil an Chlochair, Kilbeggan, Co Westmeath

RELATIONSHIP OF RSE TO SPHE

RSE will be taught within the wider context of Social Personal and Health Education and religious and moral education. The programme will be covered using a cross-curricular approach but some lesson topics will be under specific curricular headings. For these sensitive lessons, the cross-curricular approach will not apply. These lesson topics will be listed separately.

THE AIMS OF OUR RSE PROGRAMME

We aim to provide an education in which each child can develop a responsible awareness and caring attitude towards their own and other's sexuality and human worth, enabling them to form caring and appropriate relationships throughout their lives. This education to be provided sensitively in a manner and content appropriate to individual needs. Our RSE programme aims to:

- help young people develop healthy friendships and relationships
- promote an understanding of sexuality
- promote a healthy attitude to sexuality and to relationships
- promote knowledge of and respect for reproduction
- enable young people to develop healthy attitudes and values towards their sexuality in a moral, spiritual and social framework.
- respond to individual pupil needs as appropriate

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION OF RSE IN OUR SCHOOL

The RSE content and methodology to be used will be based on the: Guidelines for primary schools drawn up by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). This programme will be delivered after a process of consultation between parents, teachers and the Board of Management. In order to promote the joint involvement of parents and teachers in implementing the RSE programme the following will be available for review to parents at the start of every school year:

The Guidelines on RSE for primary schools

The RSE programme details for each class

RSE resource materials

The principal and teachers are also available to assist parents.

Scoil an Chlochair
Roll number 20063M

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Parents' rights and responsibilities:

The RSE programme will be delivered to support and complement the process already begun in the home. Parents must make themselves aware in advance of the content of the programme so that they can begin the process of informing their children in advance of school involvement. This may involve teaching specific agreed terminology and content about relationships and human development. The policy recognises the right of a parent to hold concerns about the **RSE** programme. Where this applies the parent should discuss this with the Principal and teacher. Where concerns persist the school will facilitate a parent's decision, while taking regard of the need for sensitivity towards the child.

Classroom Teaching

Arrangements regarding the teaching of the programme and the deployment of the staff will be made by the Principal. Boys and girls will be addressed with regard to specific issues concerning their own gender and stage of development. With regard to sensitive issues parents of senior pupils will be informed in advance of the commencement of these lessons. Each year the parents of 6th class will be informed in writing of the schools programme for RSE in 6th class. This will take place in the first half of the second term (January or February before the mid-term break) . Lessons on RSE will be delivered in 6th class by the class teacher along with support teachers (male and female) in the second half of the second term (in February or March after the mid term break and before the Easter holidays). There will be 3 or more lessons delivered to girls and boys separately and as a whole class. If possible an outside agency will also be asked to speak to the boys and girls. The school has in the past used the agency ACCORD .

This policy will be revised and renewed in order to improve the delivery of the programme

Approved by the BOM Scoil an Chlochair on 29th September 2010 and updated 5th September 2012

Scoil an Chlochair, Kilbeggan, Co Westmeath

Resources

Books

Author

Peter Mayle
Louise Spilsburg
Jacqui Bailey
Babette Cole
Robbie Harris
Victoria Park

RSE Titles

Where Did I Come From
Me Myself and I
Hair There and Everywhere
Hair in Funny Places
Lets Talk About Where Babies Come From
Girls Only All about Periods

Videos and DVDS

Sex Education for Boys
Sex Education for Girls
Busy Bodies

presented by Angela McNamara Veritas
presented by Angela McNamara Veritas
produced by the South East Health Board

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RSE Library

Book Title	Author	Name	Date
What,s happening to me?	Meredith		
What,s happening to me?	Frith		
Flip-Flap Body Book	Smith and Tatchell		
Why shouldn't I eat junk food?	Knighton		
Facts of life	Meredith		
Girl Talk	Pickering		
Boy Talk	Pickering		
Where Did I Come From	Peter Mayle		
Lets Talk About Where Babies Come From	Robbie Harris		
Girls Only All about Periods	Victoria Park		
Hair in Funny Places	Babette Cole		
Me Myself and I	Louise Spilsburg		

Please sign your name and the date you checked out the book

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