

***Relationships and Sexuality
Education Policy***

for

***St. Anne's N.S.
Tyrrellspass***

Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy

Introductory Statement and Rationale

- (a) **Introductory Statement:** The School has a responsibility to put in place an RSE policy as part of the wide, Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum.
- (b) **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 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 to develop healthy friendships and relationships.
- (d) To incorporate all the aims of the SPHE programme into RSE.

Relationships to school Ethos

The school ethos affirms and supports close links between school and home. The school recognizes the role of parents as the primary educators of their children and parents have the right to withhold their children from participating in RSE classes.

School Provision – Strand One

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 love relationship (senior classes).

Education Programme

The RSE programme is the specific programme used to cover/fulfill the Content Objectives relating to Relationships and Sexuality.

It is taught in the overall context of the SPHE Curriculum and is supported by the Stay Safe Programme, the Walk Tall Programme and other health promotion programmes.

In accordance with section 5 of Circular 0065/2011 *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools*; "All primary schools must fully implement the Stay Safe Programme".

Parents have the primary responsibility for educating children in sexual matters. The RSE programme acts as a support to parents and parents retain the right to withdraw their pupils from the lessons ethos of the school.

RSE and Stay Safe Programme

Sensitive areas with 5th and 6th class will be covered by guest speaker from ACCORD. The guest speaker will decide on groupings with regard to age and gender. The guest will also decide if boys and girls receive gender specific talks in relation to puberty and at what stage special topics will be addressed with the whole class. If children withdraw from these lessons the principal will arrange accommodation in another classroom. The guest speaker will also set the ground rules for taking questions. If parents are concerned about any aspect of the school's programme for the RSE elements of SPHE they should discuss their concerns with their child's class teacher or principal. If teachers are concerned about any aspect of the school's programme for the RSE elements of SPHE they should discuss their concerns with the principal.

Child Protection

This school will follow the DES Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (2011). The Board of Management has designated the principal, Hilda Gaynor to have specific responsibility for child protection. She will be the Designated Liaison Person for the school. Deputy Principal, Niamh Shore will act as Deputy Designated Liaison Person. Staff are familiar with this policy and the procedures in place for reporting suspected cases of abuse. Parents have been informed that the school will follow the recommendations as laid down in the guidelines through the school booklet.

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 Board of Management. The teacher may need to plan the specific material to be covered and should be present during the talk.

The DLP and DDLP have availed of training in Child Protection.

The Whole Staff will avail of Child Protection Training in April 2012.

The Principal and 5th and 6th Class Teacher have availed of training in RSE.

Most staff have availed of training in STAY SAFE and Walk Tall Programme.

Evaluation

- Teacher observation.
- Inventory of what needs to be changed.
- Ensuring all content objectives of the particular strand unit are covered.
- Teacher designed tasks and tests and self-evaluation.

Roles and Responsibilities

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

Review and Evaluation

This policy is monitored on an ongoing basis. This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Management and staff with input from parents.

This policy has been prepared based on the conditions existing in the school at the time of writing. It may be altered, revised and updated to comply with any changes in conditions statutory requirements or advice involving all the partners in the education process.