

# R.S.E. Policy.

March 2018

Policy Document

**Belclare National School**



# R.S.E. Policy

S.N. an Croí Ró Noafa, Belclare.

## School Philosophy

Scoil An Croi Ro Naofa, is a Catholic school and therefore all policies developed are implemented in ways which are in keeping with the ethos of the school. The ethos of the school is characterised by the following:

- Sensitive to reality of our children's lives in a changing world
- Mutual respect between all partners in education
- Child centered
- Aims to ensure each child reaches full potential in the holistic sense
- Hopes that children are equipped with high self-esteem to enable them to go to live happy and fulfilled lives.

## Definition of RSE

RSE is an integral part of Social, Personal and Health Education and must be taught in this context. It provides structured opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding of human sexuality and relationships through processes which, will enable them to form values and establish behaviours within a moral, spiritual and social framework. (page 5 NCCA interim curriculum and guidelines for RSE)

## Relationship of RSE to SHPE.

Social, Personal and Health Education contributes to developing the work of the school in promoting the health and well-being of children and young people. This happens in the context of their emotional, moral, social and spiritual growth, as well as their intellectual, physical, political, religious and creative development. (page 5 Going Forward together Parents information booklet).

## Current provision

- Relationships will be a key part in the SPHE programme.
- The child within the family and their relationship to parents / guardians and siblings – their unique place within the family
- The child in school – relationships with their friends – showing friendship – returning friendship – spoiling friendship – forgiving – reconciliation – their sense of belonging within the class.

- Boy / Girl relationships – recognition and respect for others’ feelings – uniqueness and value of each person – covering all ages – language that describes these feelings.
- R.S.E also deals with the issue of human growth and development, human sexuality and human relationships.
- In order to allay any fears that parents have, it is important for parents to know exactly what will be taught to the children and at what stage it will be taught.

### **Junior Infants:**

Naming body parts appropriately

### **Senior Infants**

Naming body parts appropriately

### **1st / 2nd:**

Pupils are expected to be able to name parts of the male and female body using appropriate names and identify some of their functions.

### **3rd / 4th:**

Pupils are expected to be able to discuss the stages and sequence of development of the human baby from conception to birth.

### **5th / 6th:**

Pupils are expected to be able to identify and discuss physical and other changes that occur in boys and girls during puberty and to understand the reproductive systems of male and female adults.

A Registered speaker is invited annually to address 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils following a previous meeting with parents. It is mandatory that parents/guardians attend the pupil’s night with their son/daughter.

Prior to this talk they are also given a copy of Busy Bodies DVD for two nights. It is suggested to parents to watch the DVD without their son/daughter to enable them make a decision as to whether or not they are happy for their child to watch it.

## **Aims of our RSE programme**

- To help young people develop healthy friendships and relationships
- To promote a healthy attitude to sexuality and to relationships
- To enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well-being of the child
- To foster and understanding of and a healthy attitude to human sexuality and relationships in a moral, spiritual and social framework.
- To enable the child to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, human love, sexual intercourse and reproduction
- To develop and promote in the child a sense of wonder and awe at the processes of birth and new life.
- To enable the child to be comfortable with the sexuality of oneself and others while growing and developing.

## **Guidelines for the management and organisation of RSE in our school.**

- Curriculum matters
- Curriculum content – the curriculum by NCCA will be followed as published and will be taught in Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> class. It will be taught by the teaching staff and an outside speaker will address the “sexually sensitive issues” i.e. puberty, stages of baby in the womb, reproductive system, conception, birth and sexual intercourse to sixth class pupils. All resources used will be in keeping the ethos of the school and the policy.

## **Organisation matters**

- With regard to matters of a confidential nature, the school cannot take any responsibility or what is discussed in the yard or classroom
- Any teacher has the right to opt out from teaching the sexually sensitive issues in RSE. It is responsibility of the Board of Management to ensure that the curriculum will be taught to the children by another teacher or an outside speaker.
- Parents are invited/welcome to view the curriculum and may speak to the class teacher if they have any concerns.
- Parents are invited to a night with guest speaker who address parents of sixth class children. Parents and children are invited to attend a night with the guest speaker and questions are dealt with on that night.

## **Dealing with questions**

All questions answered will reflect the parameters of the curriculum. Certain topics will not be discussed i.e abortion, masturbation, homosexuality and contraception.

## **Provision for ongoing support**

- Parents are welcome to view curriculum if they wish
- Parents of sixth class pupils will receive the ‘busy bodies’ video home for two nights on a rota basis to view with their child during the second term.
- Contact with parents will be made during this term also regarding an outside speaker.

## **REVIEW**

This policy was reviewed after the initial twelve-month period had passed by the Board of Management and will be reviewed every three years. This policy will also be reviewed should a need arise.

## **Resources**

Walk Tall Department of Education & Science

R.S.E. Relationships & Sexuality Education (S.P.H.E, Department of Education & Skills.

Stay Safe Safety & protection

Bí Follain Mid Western Health Board, Media Education

Taking care of my body

Alive O

The teachers will review this policy with particular reference to the RSE section

Ratified by the Board of Management and implemented with immediate effect, for review in **March 2021**.

### **Ulick Egan**

Chairperson

**March 2018.**

Board of Management