

R.S.E. Policy

February 2023

Policy Document

Belclare National School



R.S.E. Policy

SN an Croí Ró Naofa (Belclare)

School Philosophy

SN an Croí Ró Naofa (Belclare) 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 centred
- 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)

Social, Personal and Health Education

Relationship of RSE to SPHE.

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.
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- 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.

The content of the RSE curriculum is taught on a Bi-annual basis.

Junior Infants/Senior Infants:

Naming body parts appropriately

1st / 2nd Class:

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.

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.

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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 6th class.
- It will be taught by the teaching staff

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 school policy for RSE and SPHE.

Organisation matters

- With regard to matters of a sensitive nature (such as but not limited sexual intercourse, puberty, body parts etc.) the school cannot take any responsibility for what is discussed by individual pupils.
- 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 in the school or an outside speaker. This will be an organisational matter for the school Principal.
- Parents are welcome to view the curriculum and may speak to the relevant class teacher if they have any concerns.
- Parents are invited to a night with a guest speaker who addresses parents of sixth class children.

Parents and children are invited to attend a night with the guest speaker in advance and questions are dealt with on that night.

Dealing with questions

All questions answered will reflect the parameters of the primary school curriculum. Questions which are not age appropriate and are not a part of the appropriate curriculum will not be answered by school staff.

Provision for ongoing support

- Parents are welcome to view curriculum if they wish
- Contact will be made with parents regarding an external speaker to cover the RSE element of the curriculum in 6th class.

REVIEW

This policy was reviewed after the initial twenty-four-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.

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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

Taking care of my body

Grow in Love

Flourish

The teachers will review this policy with particular reference to the RSE section Ratified by the Board of Management and implemented with immediate effect.

Richard Broderick

Agnes Martyn

Chairperson (Board of Management)

Principal

21/02/2023

21/02/2023

Date

Date

This policy will be reviewed on 21/02/2025.