

POLICY DOCUMENT for R.S.E.

SOCIAL, PERSONAL and HEALTH EDUCATION (S.P.H.E.)

This provides opportunities for children to get to know and understand themselves, and to build and support their own self-worth. The following general objectives are promoted: -

- To establish and maintain a desire for healthy living.
- To develop a capacity for effective social interaction.
- To raise awareness of the influence, pressures and needs which affect their decisions.
- To provide opportunities for clarifying their own feelings, ideas, values and attitudes.
- To give children the chance to practice making choices and decisions about social, personal and health issues.

RELATIONSHIPS and SEXUALITY EDUCATION (R.S.E.)

R.S.E. is an integral part of S.P.H.E. and must be taught in this context. It seeks to provide children with opportunities to acquire knowledge and understanding of relationships and human sexuality, through processes, which will enable them to form values and establish behaviors with a moral, spiritual and social framework. The aims and objectives of R.S.E. are:-

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

SPECIFIC ISSUES

(1) Policy on age-appropriate information:

It is important for the success of the programme that the children receive information that is appropriate to their age and level of development. However, if further information is sought by a child that is not within the scope of the programme, parents will be so advised. If such information is relayed by a parent to an individual child, it should be emphasized by that parent that this level of knowledge may not be appropriate for the general group.

(2) Withdrawal:

Our policy will make provision for the rights of parents who hold conscientious or moral objections to the inclusion of such a programme in the curriculum. Should a parent/guardian wish to withdraw his/her child from the programme, the school Board of Management, in consultation with the parent/guardian, will make provision for this child.

(3) Policy on outside visitors:

It is the policy of the school that R.S.E. will be delivered by the teachers. In certain instances it may be considered appropriate to invite specialists in certain areas to participate in the programme, in which instances advance notice will be given to parents. **However, the class teacher will remain with the class and will supervise all aspects of the programme in her/his class.**

GUILDLINES for the MANAGEMENT and ORGANISATION of R.S.E. in our SCHOOL

- Parents are to be informed in advance of the programme content.
- Parents are also to be informed in advance regarding when the formal lessons on the sensitive areas of the programme (e.g. puberty) will be covered in school.
- Parents have the responsibilities to become involved, to inform themselves of the programme content, to prepare children for the information they will acquire around the sensitive areas and to discuss areas covered in school in RSE / SPHE with their children.
- If a parent has a particular concern / issue which has arisen as a result of an RSE discussion in school, they would be encouraged to discuss it with the teacher or principal.

Evaluation and review of the programme will be ongoing
