

St. Eunan's National School

R.S.E Policy

School Ethos/Philosophy:

St. Eunan's National School is a Roman Catholic primary school which is part of the community with strong links to the parish. The school community fosters partnership between children, teachers, parents/guardians, Board of Management and other relevant professionals.

While St. Eunan's National School is a school with a Catholic ethos, it also has due respect for other faiths.

A Definition of R.S.E.:

Relationships and sexuality education encompasses the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the development of attitudes, beliefs and values about relationships, sexual identity and intimacy.

Relationships and sexuality education 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 behaviours within a moral, spiritual and social framework.

Context:

All of the R.S.E. will be delivered within the context of S.P.H.E. Sensitive issues will be covered within the strand units "Taking care of my body" and "Growing and changing". A guest speaker may be invited to the school to talk to parents and children re. sensitive issues. See table of contents below.

Table of Content:

Growing and Changing

Class	Contents
Junior & Senior Infants	About growing Growing things
1st & 2nd Class	How we have grown and changed What I was like when I was little
3rd & 4th Class	Movement Growth and shape Rates of growth Height Food and exercise Growing from boy to man and girl to woman Changes in shape Menstruation Voice change Changes in friendship patterns Mood changes Increases in body hair Skin change
5th & 6th Class	Psychological, emotional and social changes at puberty Physical changes at puberty The creation of new life Becoming a parent Conception Caring of new life: before birth Caring for new life: birth Caring for new life: after birth

Aims:

- RSE aims to help children learn at home and in school, about their own development and about their friendships and relationships with others.

This work will be based on

- Developing a good self-image

- Promoting respect for self and others
- Providing them with appropriate information

Management and Organisation

- The catholic ethos of our school will be reflected in the delivery of the R.S.E. Programme in this school.
- Parents are acknowledged as primary educators of their children and we work in a supportive role.
Children should receive information on relationships and sexuality at home first.
- R.S.E. will be provided throughout our Primary School from infants to sixth class. It will be a spiral curriculum returning to similar topics each year.
- The school will be conscious of the readiness of the child to cope with the various elements of the programme to their age or stage of emotional and intellectual maturity. This will require specific planning within our multi-class set up.
- All content objectives will be covered by the time the children leave 6th class.
- It is intended that the senior children from St. Eunan's N.S will be taught the sensitive issues (e.g. contraception, sexual intercourse) of the R.S.E Programme by a guest speaker. The guest speaker will speak with the children in the presence of their teacher and will be guided/directed by the NCCA and this policy.
- The boys and girls may be taught in single sex groups where necessary. Each group will be given the same information but it may be necessary to give more in-depth detail to the girls group re: menstruation.
- The children will be given an opportunity to write down any questions/ queries regarding the sensitive issues. The teacher or guest speaker will answer as many of their questions as possible in line with the curriculum framework and this policy.
- The teachers' right to opt out from teaching the sensitive issues will be honoured. However, the teacher will remain in the room while RSE is taught.
- If no member of staff is available to teach the sensitive issues we leave it to the discretion of the principal and class teacher to arrange for the education to be made available. Suitable guest speakers may be invited in to deliver different aspects of the programme. All information delivered will be within the programme as set down by the N.C.C.A.
- A parent's right to withdraw a pupil from the process will be honoured on the understanding that the parent is taking full responsibility for this aspect of education themselves. It is the responsibility of the parent to inform the school of this decision. Details of how this will be facilitated by the school must be discussed with the Principal.

- Pupils will only be provided with information that is in line with the curriculum content, and considered to be age appropriate for the general body of pupils.
- An outline and timetable of the lessons re. sensitive issues will be available on request to parents before the commencement of the programme each year.

Resources:

- RSE Manuals
- Videos
- Library Books
- Stay Safe Programme
- Walk Tall Programme
- Be Safe

Policy Committee:

- Parents
- Teachers
- Board of Management

Ratification and Monitoring

This policy will be monitored and reviewed on an on-going and/or when the need arises. The Board of Management will ensure that adequate training and support is provided for all staff where possible.