

Relationship and Sexuality Education including Sexually Sensitive Issues Policy

Context: RSE is a **mandatory** part of SPHE for all classes. RSE 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, Growing and changing and Safety and protection.

Aims: The aims of social, personal and health education are:

To promote the personal development and well-being of the child

To foster in the child a sense of care and respect for him/herself and other and an appreciation of the dignity of every human being

To promote the health of the child and provide a foundation for health living in all its aspects

To enable the child to make informed decisions and choices about the social and personal and health dimensions of life both now and in the future.

To develop in the child a sense of social responsibility, and a commitment to the active and participative citizenship and an appreciation of the democratic way of life

To enable the child to respect human and cultural diversity and to appreciate and understand the interdependent nature of the world.

Management and Organisation

- Parents are acknowledged as primary educators of their children and teachers work in a supportive role
- Teachers' right to opt out from teaching the sensitive issues will be honoured
- Children with SEN should have a child protection target in their IEP and their needs should be considered when teaching Stay Safe and RSE eg. revisiting or longer time spent on them for the individual child
- All content objectives will be covered on rolling 2 year basis.(all content relevant to the year band)
- A parent's right to withdraw a pupil from the process will be honoured on the understanding that the parents are taking full responsibility for this aspect of education themselves. It is the responsibility of the parent to inform the school of this decision and for collecting and returning the child during this specific time. If a parent wishes to opt out, they will be invited in to go through the content and teacher will explain that the main reason for teaching RSE is to protect the child from abuse. If they still want to opt out they will be asked to put it in writing from and this will be kept on file.
- If parents choose to opt out of the lessons we cannot guarantee that their child will not hear the language taught in school from the other children or in other contexts as children may use it outside the lessons, or discuss the lessons.
- Should a pupil require information that is not in line with the curriculum content, and considered not to be age appropriate for the general body of pupils the school will refer the pupil to the parents/guardian

Resources: RSE programme, Walk tall programme.

Class	Strand /strand Unit	Content Objectives <i>Consult curriculum for complete objectives in <u>Growing and changing</u> and <u>Taking care of my body</u></i>	Language	Pages in RSE Resource Materials Book	Pages in Walk Tall	Supplementary resources
Junior /Senior Infants	Myself <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing and changing Taking care of my body 	Growing and changing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Become aware of new life and birth in the world Develop an awareness of human birth Taking care of my body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name parts of the male and female body using anatomical terms 	womb breastfeeding penis vulva	New Life p68 My Body p147 Caring for new life p137 At the beach or swimming pool p.153	Our Amazing Bodies p94 (Senior Infants book)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anatomically correct dolls Picture books of new baby Visit of baby to class
First/ Second Class	Myself <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing and changing Taking care of my body 	Growing and changing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin to understand that reproduction, birth, growth and death are all part of new life cycles Taking care of my body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name the parts of the male and female body using appropriate anatomical terms and identify some of their functions 	penis vulva vagina womb breastfeeding urethra	The Wonder of new life p59 /151 How my body works p67/ 161 Growing means changing p77/171 A Visit to the Doctor p.164	Our Amazing Bodies p37 (2 nd class book)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Picture books of going to the doctors Tom's Power Flower Books / activities on Life cycles Birth and new life in nature

Reviewed and ratified by BOM Feb 7th 2024

Letter to inform parent not seeking consent:

Letter to the Parents

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s)

Social Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E) is a very important element of the school curriculum S.P.H.E covers a wide range of topics such as self-identity, making decisions, citizenship and relationships which equipped children with many of the skills and knowledge needed in today's world. The Relationship and Sexuality element of the programme (R.S.E) includes the learning, understanding and the development of attitudes, beliefs and values about relationships

This content will be covered in all classes during the months of January to April . We are now advising parents in advance of this taking place. We encourage you to talk to your child about what they will learn through R.S.E. There is language of a sensitive nature taught in this programme and details of which can be found in our RSE policy online on our website.

We are aware of the importance and sensitivity of teaching the R.S.E programme to our pupils and we thank you for your ongoing support in the delivery of this programme. The school has no responsibility for any information which the pupil may receive outside the direct teaching of R.S.E. lessons.