



Queen of the Universe N.S.

Long Range
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Co. Carlow

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Principal: Cathal Cole
Deputy Principal: Valerie Connolly
Roll No. 18183K
Registered Charity No: 20109356

Relationships and Sexuality Policy

Our school philosophy –

This school aims to provide an environment where the social, moral, intellectual, physical and religious development of each pupil can be fostered.

Definition of R.S.E. –

R.S.E. 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 themselves and others, and providing them with appropriate information.

Relationship of R.S.E. to S.P.H.E. –

R.S.E. comes under the umbrella of Social, Personal and Health Education, which looks at issues such as relationships at home and in school, building self-esteem and learning skills of communication, decision making and expressing feelings in an appropriate way. It also gives clear information on a range of topics, including healthy eating, human growth and development, safety and social responsibility and environmental issues.

What the school currently provides –

- Stay Safe Programme
- School policy on bullying
- Healthy eating policy
- Online Safety
- Sex Education , visiting teacher (5th/6th class)
- Recycling programme

The aims of our R.S.E. programme are –

- To enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well-being of each child
- To help the child to develop healthy friendships and relationships
- To foster an 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 respects for, human love, sexual intercourse and reproduction, as and when these issues become relevant to his/her stage of development
- To develop and promote in the child a sense of wonder and awe at the process 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 R.S.E. in our school

- Methods will be child-centred and appropriate to the age of the child
- Teachers will deliver lessons in a spirit of respect for the rights of the child and their families, concerning privacy and confidentiality
- Parents of children will be informed in advance of the lessons on sensitive issues
- Outside speakers may be used to enhance the programme in line with agreed school policy
- Arrangements regarding the teaching of the programme will be made by the principal and the staff

Provision for on-going support, guidance and review

- Staff at our school has made a commitment to access and attend in-career development in this area of the curriculum
- The efforts of parent representatives to provide education opportunities for other parents will be supported
- Every effort will be made to provide relevant R.S.E. resources as they become available
- The policy and programme will be reviewed from time to time and any amendments necessary as a result of such reviews will be undertaken.

Lessons on “Sensitive Issues” (Relationships and Sexuality Series)

Junior Infants R.S.E. Book P. 68 - 74

Senior Infants R.S.E. Book P. 148 - 160

1st Class R.S.E. Book P. 61

2nd Class R.S.E. Book P. 155 -157

3rd Class R.S.E. Book P. 70 -79

4th Class R.S.E. Book P. 170 – 176

“Busy Bodies” DVD to support issues on growing and changing

5th Class R.S.E. Book P. 84 - 86

“Busy Bodies” DVD

6th Class R.S.E. Book P. 200 – 205, P. 211 -215

North Western Health Board Manual P. 102, 108 -116

“Busy Bodies” DVD – all sections may be used

Guest speaker on sex education

Please note –

Teachers in 4th, 5th and 6th Classes may decide to use some or all of the above resources

Specific lesson on Stranger Danger -

This lesson is in each level of the Stay Safe programme

Note: Teachers need to inform children that it is not only strangers that can pose a threat to their safety.

Miscarriage –

No specific lesson, teacher discretion.

Specific lesson on AIDS –

R.S.E. for 6th Class P173

Specific lesson on Sexual Abuse –

The lessons on “Touches” and “Secrets” in all levels of the Stay Safe programme.

*A teacher may quietly suggest to a pupil to discuss a matter with his/her parent/guardian. Similarly a teacher may decide to inform a parent that a particular topic was raised in class and encourage the parent to discuss the matter at home.

It is again important to state that no teacher must discuss a matter which is not covered in the guidelines for that particular class.

The use of correct anatomical terms will be used as part of prescribed lessons on sensitive issues and/or as deemed appropriate by the class teacher.

Specific vocabulary that may be introduced

- Infants** - breast, navel, penis, vagina, testicles
- 1st/2nd Class** - womb, breast feeding, umbilical cord, urethra
- 3rd/4th Class** - menstruation, hormones, puberty
- 5th Class** - female reproductive organs, fallopian tube, uterus lining, cervix, ovary, 5th class
- male reproductive organs –scrotum, wet dreams, erection, testicles, sperm
- 6th Class** - sexual intercourse

In 5th/6th Class much of this content will be covered by a guest speaker (if available)

Lessons on Sensitive Issues reviewed on October 25th 2018

Ratification and Communication

The Board of Management of Queen of the Universe N.S. has ratified this plan.
It is available to parents to view at the school.

Signed _____ Chairperson

Date _____