

# R.S.E. Policy

Reviewed June 2023

## **Introduction:**

Our vision is to provide the school community of Scoil Naomh Náille with an environment that promotes positive self-esteem within each individual, acceptance of difference and respect for each other. Keeping in mind the multiple intelligences of our students, we aim to provide them with experiences of success through the curriculum we offer, to ensure that each individual be skilled and motivated to achieve their potential.

## **Definition of Relationships and Sexuality Education (R.S.E.):**

R.S.E. is an integral part of social, personal and health education and must be taught in this context. It provides structural 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. In particular, it addresses the meaning of human sexuality, relationships, growth and development, relevant personal and social skills and aspects of parenting.

Central to Relationships and Sexual Education is the fostering of self-esteem, through which the pupil becomes more responsible in making choices and decisions in all aspects of life, and particularly in those relating to sexuality and relationships.

## **Relationship of R.S.E. to Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.):**

R.S.E. is part of S.P.H.E. and is covered under the strand units of Myself and Myself and Others in the school curriculum.

## **What the School Currently Provides:**

The school is currently providing for the formal coverage of R.S.E. through use of the following programmes; Stay Safe, Walk Tall, Alive O, Grow in Love, Small World, Welcome to Wellbeing, examples from S.P.H.E. curriculum.

Provision is also made for professional speakers to visit the school, e.g. nurse, garda, doctor, dental nurse.

## **Aims of our R.S.E. Programme:**

The aims of R.S.E. are:

- To enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well-being of the child.
- To help the child to develop healthy friendships and relationships.
- To foster an understanding of, and 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 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:**

On our enrolment form, parents/guardians will be asked to consent to their child taking part in the Stay Safe programme. The rights of parents will be respected at all times and therefore parents will be afforded the right of withdrawing their child from these lessons.

Lessons on puberty and menstruation will be taught at sixth class level. HSE Booklet 'Busy Bodies' is distributed to parents and discussed with 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils.

The complete R.S.E. curriculum will be covered by the end of 6<sup>th</sup> Class.

Resource materials used will be in line with the ethos of our school.

### **Provide for Ongoing Support, Development and Review:**

The Board of Management will provide support for teachers and pupils involved in R.S.E. by:

- Ensuring access to in-career development opportunities for teachers.
- Providing relevant R.S.E. resources.

### **Review and Ratification**

This policy was initially drawn up by the Principal and Staff and was ratified by the Board of Management on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014. This policy was reviewed in April 2018 and again in June 2023 was ratified by the Board of Management on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

This policy will be reviewed in April 2027.