



Scoil Cholmcille
Relationships and Sexuality Education
Our School Policy

This policy was drawn up by the R.S.E. policy committee in consultation with staff, parents/guardians and reflects the overall ethos of our school which states:

Scoil Cholmcille is a Catholic Primary School which strives to provide a well-ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural needs of the pupils are identified and addressed. The Committee included the following: .

The RSE Programme will be taught under the umbrella of the Social Personal and Health Education Curriculum (SPHE).

The SPHE Curriculum is managed and organized on a whole school basis over a 2 year cycle consisting of 30 mins. per week discrete time or one hour per fortnight. This will be taught formally in discrete time and informally in integration with other curricular areas.

Definition of Relationships and Sexuality Education

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.

Scoil Cholmcille seeks to help children to grow and develop into healthy confident and mature adults. The school strives to provide structured knowledge and understanding of human relationships and sexuality within the context of a committed loving relationship.

The Ultimate Goal of the Programme

The ultimate goal, under the Catholic ethos of the school is to enable the child to develop a deep sense of the beauty and dignity of self, gifted by God, and, the right to be educated in developing a healthy and open sense of self-protection.

The aims of our RSE Programme 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 a healthy attitude to, human sexuality and relationships in a moral, spiritual and social framework.
- To enable the child to develop an understanding of, and a 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.
- The children internalize the information and are witnessed applying it in their own lives.

- The children can use skills and abilities to understand themselves, communicate with others, make decisions, deal with conflict and develop a positive self-concept.
- The children will use appropriate language to talk about themselves, feelings, their development and relationships with others.
- The children will talk about the different topics with confidence and maturity.
- To enable the child to develop a sense of personal responsibility and come to understand his/her sexuality and the process of growth, development and reproduction.

Curriculum Matters:

- It is acknowledged that parents are the primary educators of their children with teachers acting in a supportive role. Therefore children should receive this knowledge at home first.
- The Curriculum by the NCCA will be followed as published and will be taught from Junior Infant to 6th Class.
- In a multi class situation, the younger class may be withdrawn when topics being taught are not age-appropriate.
- When an outside speaker is used, the class teacher is responsible for making them aware of school policy, and the teacher will be present.

Organisation Matters:

- If children are withdrawn, they will be accommodated in another teacher's classroom.
- With regard to matters of a confidential nature, the school cannot take any responsibility for what is discussed in the yard or classroom.
- Any teacher has the right to opt-out from teaching the sexually sensitive issues in RSE. It is the responsibility of the Board of Management to ensure that the curriculum will be taught to the children by another teacher or an outside speaker.
- Parents are invited/welcome to view the curriculum and may speak to the class teacher if they have any concerns.

Guest Speaker

- Where appropriate a guest speaker may be invited to teach the content of the programme to the Senior Classes.
- The guest speaker will be made familiar with this school policy and the class teacher will be present.

Dealing with questions

- In the event that any questions asked by the children are judged to be inappropriate, the teacher will refer the child to their parents. Children asking questions outside of the lesson plan will be directed to discuss the relevant issue with their parents.
- The school cannot accept responsibility for any information which the pupil may receive outside the direct teaching of these lessons.
- A parent's right to withdraw their child/children from the process will be honoured on the understanding that the parent is taking full responsibility for this aspect of education themselves.
- Parents should inform the school of this decision in writing.
- Parents will be informed when these lessons will be timetabled and lessons will be held at times to facilitate withdrawal.

- The school cannot guarantee confidentiality if a child asks a question of a personal nature to themselves or discloses personal information.
- All questions answered will reflect the parameters of the curriculum.

Implementation and Content

- Number of lessons will be between 3-6.
- An outline of the lessons is available to parents before the commencement of the programme (see summary in Appendix 1).
- A letter will be sent to parents before lessons commence.
- Lessons on sensitive issues will be held at the end of the day, to avoid undue attention.
- Where appropriate, boys will receive instruction on puberty separately from girls.

Ratified

This policy was ^{unanimously} ratified by the Board of Management on 7/5/12 and is available for parents to view.

_____ proposed the acceptance of this policy.
 _____ seconded this.

Fr. P. O'Hagan
 Fr. P. O'Hagan

Mr. Karol Lynch

Review

The following may be involved in reviewing this policy :

- RSE Committee
- Staff
- Principal
- Parents
- B.O.M.

This policy was reviewed on [DATE].

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Scoil Cholmcille
Greencastle
Co. Donegal
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Withdrawal Slip

I, _____ withdraw _____ from the Sensitive Lessons of the RSE Programme in Scoil Cholmcille and I take responsibility for educating my child in this.

Parents/Guardians: _____

Date: _____

Principal: _____



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Appendix 1

What the school provides: Relationship and sexuality content will be taught in the context of our SPHE curriculum, particularly in the units “Taking care of the body” and “Growing and Changing”. These units will include the following sensitive content:

Junior/Senior Infants	name parts of the male/female body using appropriate anatomical terms and identify some of their functions.
1st/2nd Classes	name parts of the male/female body using appropriate anatomical terms and identify some of their functions.
Third/Fourth Classes	discuss the stages and sequence of the development of the human baby in the womb.
Fifth/Sixth Classes	changes that occur in boys and girls with the onset of puberty, reproductive system of male/female adults, understand sexual intercourse, conception and birth within the context of a committed loving relationship (Is the BOM happy with this?)