

## ***Scoil Náisiúnta na Scríne***

### **R.S.E. Policy**

#### **Our School Philosophy**

Screen N.S. is a school where each individual pupil is made to feel that he/she belongs to a community which

- (a) Promotes the development of self-discipline
- (b) Encourages him/her to recognize his/her potential
- (c) Helps his/her to acquire a good self image
- (d) To develop a respect for these qualities in others.

We nurture a love of learning and, while acknowledging the importance of academic excellence, strive to contribute to all aspects of each pupil's development - spiritual, emotional social, cultural, creative and moral.

The school takes account of the changing social and economic conditions of our country and nurtures in each pupil those attitudes and skills that enable her to cope. It endeavors to foster attitudes and skills to enable a positive use of leisure time now and later. It encourages an attitude of practical concern for the local environment. We acknowledge and respect the uniqueness of each individual and their environment.

The school recognizes the important role of parents and clergy in the development of the pupils and it welcomes them as partner in achieving what is best for all the pupils.

Above all, the school is a community where faith and the values of the Gospel find daily expression in every activity within the school.

#### **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 each other. It will provide opportunities for

children to learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help them think and act in a moral caring and responsible way.

### **Relationship of R.S.E. to S.P.H.E.**

S.P.H.E. is the process, which enables children to develop an understanding of themselves. It helps them to choose and follow a healthy lifestyle and enables them to play responsible roles as individuals, and as members of society. R.S.E. is situated within S.P.H.E., but it deals with specific aspects of S.P.H.E. such as:

- Human growth and development
- Human sexuality
- Parenting
- Personal and social skills
- Relationships

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

At present many aspects of R.S.E. and S.P.H.E. are being covered by the pupils in their day-to-day work in the school.

#### **A. Formal Provision**

##### **1. The Stay Safe Programme.**

34080448. Existing School Subjects:

- (a) Religious Education - 'Alive O' Programmes.
- (b) Physical Education - Games, physical skills, looking after our bodies, playing on teams, keeping the rules of games, being a sports person, playing fair.
- (c) Social and Environmental Studies - The study of nature, plants and animals, parts of the body, looking after our environment.
- (d) Basic Science - (senior classes) - The composition of our bodies, cells, our skeleton, various systems in the human body.

## **B. Informal Provision**

The school is constantly providing S.P.H.E. and R.S.E. training/education informally through:

- (a) Creating a supportive school climate.
- (b) The school rules - Realization that we must respect other pupils and school property.  
Sharing with and caring for others.
- (c) Fostering self-esteem.
- (d) Fostering a sense of responsibility.
- (e) Rewarding effort, e.g. whole school assemblies.
- (f) Valuing uniqueness and difference between pupils.
- (g) Encouraging initiative and creativity.
- (h) Promotion of social, religious and moral values.
- (i) Promotion of high standards.
- (j) The promotion of prayer and the sacraments.
- (k) The provision of swimming for senior classes.
- (l) Project work.
- (m) Mass server's programme.
- (n) Healthy Eating.
- (o) The provision of Gaelic football and hurling for all classes.

These areas are covered by the Class Teacher, the local clergy, the local Gardaí, and by visiting speakers who from time to time are invited to the school.

## **Aims of Our R.S.E. Programme**

- 1. To help young people develop healthy friendships and relationships.
- 34080592. To promote an understanding of sexuality.
- 34080593. To promote a healthy attitude to sexuality and to relationships.
- 34080594. To promote knowledge of, and respect for, reproduction.
- 34080595. To enable young people to develop healthy attitudes and values towards their sexuality in a moral, spiritual and social framework.

## **Broad Objectives**

When due account is taken of intrinsic abilities and varying circumstances, the R.S.E curriculum should enable the child to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of self
- Develop a positive sense of self-awareness, self-esteem and self-worth
- Develop an appreciation of the dignity, uniqueness and well-being of others
- Understand the nature, growth and development of relationships within families, in friendships and in wider contexts
- Develop an awareness of differing family patterns
- Come to value family life and appreciate the responsibilities of parenthood
- Develop strategies to make decisions, solve problems and implement actions in various personal, social and health contexts.
- Become aware of the variety of ways in which individuals grow and change and understand that their developing sexuality is an important aspect of self-identity.
- Develop personal skills that will help to establish and sustain healthy personal relationships.
- Develop some coping strategies to protect self and others from various forms of abuse.
- Acquire and improve skills of communication and social interaction
- Acquire and use appropriate vocabulary to discuss feelings, sexuality, growth and development
- Develop a critical understanding of external influences on lifestyles and decision making.

## **R.S.E.: A Partnership**

Parents are the primary educators of their children. The provision of R.S.E. is a partnership between home and school. The school is a support, not a substitute for the work of parents.

## **The Management and Organisation of R.S.E. in Our School**

1. The teaching methods for R.S.E. will be based on sound education principles as used in other areas of the curriculum. These methods will be child centred and appropriate to the age and development of the pupil.
2. The school will seek to communicate the Christian vision of human life and human relationships. The programme will be presented in the context of loving committed relationships with a view to developing a responsible attitude to sexuality and relationships in the children.
3. Sensitive subjects will be dealt with in a manner which takes into account the dignity, privacy and modesty of each individual child.
4. The programme will be taught by the class teacher in appropriate class groupings.
5. The programme will follow the N.C.C.A. guidelines.
6. The materials used will be those provided by the D.E.S. and H.S.E.
7. The school believes that it would be to the benefit of all children to participate in the programme. However, parents have the right to withdraw their child if they so wish.
8. If a teacher does not wish to teach the programme, alternative arrangements will be made by the principal in consultation with the staff.
9. There will be consultation with parents concerning children with special needs.

## **ACCORD**

In 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class, children will be taught the names and parts of their body and their function. They will be enabled to identify and explore the physical changes that occur in males and females with the onset of puberty. They will become familiar with the reproductive system of both male and female. They will understand how sexual intercourse, conception and birth take place. They will recognize the physical changes as part of the ongoing process of growth and development which is common to everyone.

Arrangements will be made for an external facilitator (usually from ACCORD) to present the sexuality content of the programme. Notice will be given as to the date that the facilitator will visit the school. Parents will be encouraged to prepare their children as they see appropriate.

## Ongoing Support, Development and Review

- The Policy will be reviewed after one year.
- R.S.E. resources will be kept up to date.
- Ongoing training and information will be provided, depending on demand, for both parents and teachers.
- The school will support efforts of the Parents' Council to provide educational opportunities for parents.

## Ratification and Review of the Policy

- This policy was ratified by Board of Management on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2000.
- The policy was reviewed in May 2006 and found to be satisfactory.
- This policy was reviewed and updated in October 2014. The main change was the introduction of an outside speaker for senior classes.

The policy will be reviewed in the 2017/2018 school year.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairperson)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Principal)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>REVIEW IN YEAR:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>SIGNATURE:</b>
2017-2018		
2019-2020		
2022-2023		
2025-2026		
2028-2029		