

*St Joseph's NS  
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## **Relationship & Sexuality in Education Policy (RSE)**

### **Definition of RSE:**

**RSE is an ongoing process whereby, teachers and parents provide opportunities for children and young people to learn about relationships and sexuality in a way that will help them to think and act in a moral, caring and responsible way.**

In St. Joseph's N.S. our work with the children is based on developing a positive self-image, promoting respect for others and providing age appropriate information.

As a parent, you are your child's first teacher. Our schools aim to work together with you in this important job.

### **RSE in the context of SPHE:**

RSE is an integral part of the Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum, and is required for all pupils.

SPHE provides an opportunity for pupils to learn basic personal and social skills which foster integrity, self-confidence and self-esteem, while nurturing sensitivity to the feelings and rights of others. Our RSE programme will take place within the context of the broader SPHE programme.

Within the St Joseph's N.S., we are currently covering the following **topics** through the teaching of P.E, R.E and SESE and various targeted weeks of intervention – health & wellbeing week, friendship week etc.

- Myself – I am special
- My family
- Friendships
- Celebrations
- Belongings
- Road Safety

- Accident prevention
- Keeping safe
- Self esteem
- Stay Safe programme
- My body
- Nutrition
- Keeping healthy
- Hygiene
- Moral education

### **Aims of the RSE Programme:**

In St Joseph's N.S., we aim to provide all the pupils with information on the RSE programme that is age appropriate. We do this in keeping with guidance given from the Department of education & Skills, through the PDST, while reflecting at all times the ethos of our schools

### **Our primary aims are;**

- To assist parents in their role as primary educators, so they may guide their children's development.
- To foster each child's positive self-esteem.
- To provide the children with skills in making and maintaining friendships with other children of any gender.
- To provide children with guided learning regarding their physical, emotional and social development.
- To provide clear and simple language for children, to enhance the communication of their wishes and feelings in a socially acceptable way.
- To promote in our children a Christian attitude to sexuality and relationships.
- To acknowledge the important role of our teachers in the imparting of the RSE programme and to ensure the provision of suitable resources.

### **Guidelines for the Management and organisation of RSE in our School:**

**Confidentiality** – The child's right to privacy must be respected at all times by both the teacher and other pupils in the class. The pupils should never feel pressured to reveal or discuss private matters. Children will be encouraged to discuss the contents of the RSE lessons at home. Children will be reminded to be responsible about the information they are given.

**Parents' Rights and Responsibilities** – The parent's role and responsibility for their child must be respected. Parents are informed during the admissions process about the programme, and their written consent requested.

They have a right :

- To be informed about the RSE programme.
- To view the teaching resources.
- To withdraw their child from the RSE aspect of the SPHE programme, with a written request.

They have a responsibility:

- To listen to their child and to keep themselves informed about the content being covered so they can assist their child at home.

**Provision for Ongoing Support:**

Staff are encouraged to upskill in this area, as courses become available from PDST. There is also a wealth of recommended support material available online to support the teaching of RSE.

Review/Ratification/Communication:

This policy was ratified and communicated on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

It will be reviewed at the end of the 2021 school year and amended if necessary.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Edward Forde (Chairperson Board of Management)