

Scoil Cholmáin, Corkbeg, Whitegate, Co. Cork

Roll Number – 119921

Tel: (021) 4661622

Email: office@whitegatens.ie

Website: www.whitegatens.ie

RSE Policy

Our School Philosophy

In Scoil Cholmáin, Whitegate N.S we will endeavour to encourage children to examine and explore relationships in their lives and learn how to develop and enjoy friendships which are based on responsibility and mutual respect.

Definition of R.S.E

Relationships and Sexuality Education is an integral part of SPHE and must be taught in this context. It provides structured opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about relationships and sexuality in ways which will enable them to form values and help them think and act in a moral, caring and responsible way. This work will be based on developing a good image, promoting respect for themselves and others, and providing them with appropriate information. In particular, it addresses the meaning of human sexuality, relationships, growth and development, relevant to personal and social skills.

S.P.H.E

All of the RSE programme will be delivered within the context of Social, Personal and Health Education. Sensitive (Sexual Issues) will be covered within the Strand Units 'Taking Care of My Body', 'Growing and Changing' and 'Safety and Protection'.

Relationships and Sexuality Education Aims

The aims of this RSE Policy are as follows:

- 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 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.

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RSE Provision

In Scoil Cholmáin, Whitegate N.S we use the following material to provide the RSE Programme to the children:

- Relationships and Sexuality Resource Material (DES)
- Grow in Love Religious Programme
- Stay Safe Programme
- Walk Tall Programme
- Busy Bodies
- Making The Links
- Visitors(May invite suitable visitors to deliver the Sensitive content to 5th/6th Classes)

Guidelines for the Management and Organisation of RSE in our School.

Content:

We recognise that the parents are the primary educators of their children and that the home is the natural environment in which RSE should take place. The role of the school, therefore, is seen as one of support of the work of the home in this area. The content objectives covered will be taught as laid down by the Department of Education and Skills in the SPHE Curriculum 1999.

- RSE will be taught in all classes
- The SPHE/RSE curriculum will be of a spiral nature and all content objectives will be covered by the time children leave 6th class.
- Questions arising from lesson content will be answered in an age-appropriate manner.
- All resources used in the teaching of the programme will be in keeping with the ethos of the school and in the spirit of this policy.

Timetabling:

One half hour period per week is timetabled for each class for SPHE. RSE will be included in the programme taught during this time. It is envisaged that some aspects of RSE (including the sensitive issues) will be taught through a number of core periods while some material may be taught in a cross-curricular manner. The ‘sensitive issues’ will be taught in each classroom in the third term.

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Withdrawal from RSE:

Since RSE is an obligatory requirement of the Department of Education and Skills it should be inclusive. However, a parent's right to withdraw a pupil from themes pertaining to sensitive issues will be respected on the understanding that the parent is taking full responsibility for this aspect of education. Parents are advised to inform the school of their decision to withdraw the child from the classes based on sensitive issues. The school cannot be responsible for any information which a child may receive outside the direct teaching of RSE lessons.

Confidentiality and Child Protection:

Where there is disclosure by a child regarding child protection, the school will follow the guidelines of the Department of Education and Skills and the guidelines as set out in 'Children First'.

Resources

- RSE Manuals for all classes.
- Relationships and Sexuality Resource Material (DES)
- Busy Bodies
- Grow in Love Programme
- Walk Tall Programme
- Stay Safe Programme
- Making the Links
- Suitable Speakers where necessary

Overview of Content

Infants - 2nd Class

Myself

- I am unique(Self- esteem, developing and expressing self-confidence)
- My body
- As I grow I change

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- New life
- Keeping safe
- Feelings and emotions
- Making decisions

Myself and Others

- Myself and my family
- Myself and my friends
- Special people in my life
- Relating to others-communicating, sharing, co-operating and resolving conflict

3rd- 6th Class

Myself

- Accepting myself(Self-esteem, developing and expressing self –confidence)
- Physical development
- Growing and changing
- Birth and new life
- Feelings and emotions
- Personal hygiene
- Personal safety
- Identifying and assessing risks
- Developing safety strategies
- Making decisions

Myself and Others

- Roles and responsibilities in families
- Friendship
- Portrayal of sexuality and relationships
- Roles of males and females in society
- Relating to others-communicating, sharing, co-operating and resolving conflict.

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Relationships and Sexuality education

RSE is an integral part of SPHE. The lessons related to RSE can be found in the following strands and strand units:

- Myself
- Myself and others

Lesson Content-Sensitive Issues

Infants

Theme 6, Lesson-Caring for New Life, Strand Unit-Growing and Changing.

Theme 7, Lesson, My body, Strand Unit-Taking Care of my body. The children in the Infant Classes will be expected to be able to name parts of the male and female body using appropriate anatomical terms such as Penis/Vagina.

1st -2nd Class

Theme 6, Lesson-The Wonder of New Life, Theme 7, Lesson-How my Body Works, Theme 8, Lesson-Growing means Changing. Strand Units-Growing and Changing, Taking Care of My Body. The children in these classes will be expected to name male and female body parts using appropriate anatomical terms. Topics such as the functions of the womb, breast, urethra are also covered in these lessons

3rd - 4th Class

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Pupils from 3rd to 4th class are expected to be able to discuss the stages and sequence of development of the human baby in the womb and functions of the umbilical cord. However any questions as to how the baby got there cannot be answered by the teacher.

Theme 6, Lesson –Preparing for New Life

From 4th Class only, Theme 6, lesson–The Wonder of new Life and theme 8, Lesson –As I Grow I Change, Theme 8 (Girls in 4th only), Lesson-As I grow I Change with an introduction to changes with a particular focus on menstruation.

Strand Unit-Growing and Changing.

5th - 6th Class

Pupils in 5th and 6th class are expected to be able to identify and discuss physical and other changes that occur in girls and boys at puberty and to understand the reproductive systems of male and female adults. They are expected to understand sexual intercourse, conception and birth within the context of a committed loving relationship.

Theme 6, Lesson-My Body Grows and Changes, Theme 7, Lesson-The Wonder of New Life, Strand Unit-Growing and Changing, Theme 8, Lesson Caring for New Life, Theme 2- Different Kinds of Love, Strand Unit-Taking Care of My Body.

Resources-Books, Guidelines, Manuals, Booklets, DVDS, Websites.

- Relationships and Sexuality Resource Material (DES)
- RSE Manuals for Teachers
- Stay Safe Programme
- SPHE Programme
- Grow in Love Religious Programme
- Walk Tall Programme
- Making the Links
- Busy Bodies
- Boy Talk Girl Talk Books

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- RSE Going Forward Together Parent Booklet
- PDST-Guidelines, Templates, Lesson Plans, Planning for Children with Special Needs.
- All Together Now-(A Programme to Address Homophobic/Transphobic Bullying
- Being LGBT in School(Book)
- Different Families, Same Love Poster

Policies Related to this Policy

- Child Protection
- Child Safeguarding Statement
- Anti-Bullying
- Code of Behaviour
- Enrolment
- Data Protection
- Mobile Phone Acceptable Use Policy
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- Health, Safety and Welfare Policy
- SPHE
- Healthy Lunch Policy
- Activities, Tours, Initiatives and Visitors Policy
- Home-School Liaison- /Parent/Guardian/Teacher Communication

Ratification

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management.

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Scoil Cholmáin, Corkbeg, Whitegate, Co. Cork

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It will be reviewed in the second term 2025 or before this if legislation affects this policy's content