

Scoil Naomh Cholmcille



Relationships and Sexuality Education Accord is the facilitator for 6th Class RSE workshops each year.

Ethos:

Scoil Naomh Cholmcille is under Catholic management in the parish of Togher.

The children are taught the importance and value of truth, honesty, working hard and the importance of being a caring and contributing member of both society at large and their locality of Togher. The children are encouraged to have respect for God, Church and State, and all persons regardless of race or colour.

In this environment of respect children learn to speak out confidently, treat others with courtesy, listen to the opinions of others and form and express their own, as they learn to become positive and individual in their thinking.

The school is a community where the traditions and teaching of the Catholic Church inform the position on moral issues. This policy statement addresses the moral issue of Relationships and Sexuality in a Catholic context.

Definition of RSE:

Relationships and Sexuality Education is the process of acquiring knowledge and understanding, and of developing values, beliefs and attitudes, and of learning to communicate confidently, about relationships and sexuality.

Aims

The overall aim is to enhance the education given by parents to their children regarding relationships and sexuality, within the ethos of the school.

- By upholding the importance of the family, responsibilities and importance of fathers and mothers, commitment, stability, honesty, truth, love – with sensitivity.
- By fostering a sense of wonder and appreciation of design and regard to the beginning of new life, life within the womb, birth, and the general emotional and physical needs of a baby, and by doing so, avoid or correct any misinformation.
- By teaching the children about puberty in girls and boys and preparing them for their respective body changes.

- By upholding moral and spiritual values and showing their relevance to relationships and sexuality, and showing the need to live in a moral, caring and responsible manner.
- By developing self-esteem in the children and promoting respect for themselves and others.
- By developing communication skills, so that each child may gain the confidence to withstand pressure from others with regard to relationships and sexuality.

RSE and SPHE:

Organisationally, RSE is one part of SPHE, others, for example, being the Stay Safe Programme, and the Substance Abuse Prevention Programme.

The following aims and topics have common ground in the RSE and SPHE programmes undertaken in our school.

- ❖ Healthy eating
- ❖ Personal hygiene
- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Social responsibility
- ❖ Environmental issues
- ❖ Building self-esteem
- ❖ Acquiring skills in communication
- ❖ Learning how to make considered decisions
- ❖ Learning to express feelings in an appropriate way

Current Provision:

Physical Education:

Revised Primary School PE curriculum. Dental screening and education, medical examinations and vaccinations as per the HSE regulations and provisions.

Religious Education:

Text in use is the Alive-O Series.

Preparation for the Sacraments of First Confession, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

The relationship between God and us and in particular, his love for us.

SESE:

To stimulate and nurture, an interest in, and respect and appreciation for;

To direct questioning and exploration of topics about;

To encourage a caring and responsible attitude toward; people, animal-life, the local environment, the world.

Stay Safe Programme:

To promote a caring, trusting, responsive environment in school.

To encourage children to be assertive, foster self-esteem and to enhance communication.

To encourage children to value and enjoy friendships, and normal appropriate affection.
To develop the children's abilities to recognise, resist and report risk situations.
To reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying.

Guidelines:

The school recognises that the primary responsibility for relationships and sexuality education lies with the child's parents/guardians.

Parents can be advised of the content of the programme to be taught at each level.

The children will be encouraged to have a mature attitude to topics discussed in class.

Questions from children in class will be answered within the agreed programme for that age group and a child may be advised to discuss at home personal concerns outside the programme.

Teachers will not be required to answer personal questions about themselves and will only be required to answer questions that pertain to the lesson.

Where appropriate, older children will be taught separately.

Parents may withdraw their children from the school's RSE programme and then assume the responsibility for the Relationships and Sexuality Education programme.

In view of the nature of its content and the wishes of parents and BOM this programme will be subject to ongoing review and development.

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