



RSE policy, Scoil Na Mainistreach

■ School Details

- *Name:* Scoil Na Mainistreach
- *Address:* Old Town Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare
- *Phone Number:* 01 6271149
- *Category:* Catholic, 36 teachers
- *Enrolment Numbers:* 639

■ Introductory Statement & Rationale

This policy statement is an approved approach to the teaching of RSE in : *Scoil Na Mainistreach* . It was developed by the R.S.E. Policy Committee which included two teachers, two representatives of the Board of Management and two parent representatives. It was developed to inform teachers and parents as to what material is covered in the RSE programme within SPHE.

■ School Philosophy

Scoil Na Mainistreach is a Catholic school and therefore all policies developed are implemented in ways which are in keeping with the ethos of the school. The ethos of the school is characterised by the following:

- a) Relationship with God;
- b) Relationship with family;
- c) Relationship with teachers;
- d) Relationship with self;
- e) Relationship with others;
- f) Relationship with environment

■ Definition of RSE

RSE is an integral part of Social, Personal and Health Education and must be taught in this context. It provides structured opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding of human sexuality and relationships through processes which will enable them to form values and establish behaviours within a moral, spiritual and social framework. (p. 5 NCCA interim curriculum and guidelines for RSE)

▪ **Relationship of RSE to SPHE**

Social, Personal and Health Education contributes to developing the work of the school in promoting the health and well-being of children and young people. This happens in the context of their emotional, moral, social and spiritual growth, as well as their intellectual, physical, political, religious and creative development. (p.5 Going Forward Together Parents Information Booklet)

▪ **Current Provision** Included in the school curriculum in Scoil na Mainistreach N.S. is:

- Religious Education (Alive-O)
- SPHE
- Public Health Nurse / relevant speaker

▪ **Aims of our RSE programme**

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 understanding of, respect for and a healthy attitude to:

- Human sexuality and relationships in a moral, spiritual and social framework.
- Human love, sexual intercourse and reproduction.
- The wonder of the creation of the new life.

To enable the child to be comfortable with sexuality, his own and others, while growing and developing.

▪ **Guidelines for the Management and Organisation of RSE in our School**

- Curriculum Matters:
- Curriculum Content – The curriculum by NCCA will be followed as published, and will be taught in Infants to 6th class. *It will be taught by the teaching staff (as outlined on the sheet attached) OR An outside speaker will address the “sexually sensitive issues” i.e. puberty, stages of baby in the womb, reproductive system, conception, birth and sexual intercourse, at 5th and 6th Class.* All resources used will be in keeping with the ethos of the school and the policy.
- When an outside speaker is used, the class teacher is responsible for making them aware of school policy and that teacher will sit in during the lesson.

Below is a list of specific vocabulary which is used in each of the classes and the objectives they relate to in the SPHE curriculum.

Junior Infants: The theme of new-life is dealt with, which relates to nature and family e.g. New life in Spring, pets and family (RSE Teaching Materials p. 68-76)
Vocabulary Introduced: born womb

Senior Infants: Taking care of my Body – covers personal hygiene and self-awareness (RSE Teaching Materials p. 148-156)
Vocabulary Introduced: Penis vulva/ breasts
As SPHE is spiral in nature, the work in Junior Infants is revisited re: New Life and expanded (RSE Teaching Materials p. 158-167)
Vocabulary Introduced: breastfed little seed – 9 nine months in womb

Relevant Objectives from SPHE Curriculum:

The child should be enabled to
develop an awareness of human birth
that a baby grows and is nurtured in the mother's womb until ready to be born
(SPHE Curriculum – Infants – p. 18)
name parts of the male and female body, using appropriate anatomical terms
(SPHE Curriculum – Infants – p. 17)

First and Second Class

First Class: The themes covered include “New Life” and “How my body works”
(RSE Teaching Materials p. 68-75)
Vocabulary Introduced: urine urethra

Second Class: Themes explored include “The Wonder of New Life”, “When My Body Needs Special Care” (RSE Teaching Materials p. 162-169)
Vocabulary Introduced: vagina anus

Relevant Objectives from SPHE Curriculum:

The child should be enabled
to name parts of the male and female body, using appropriate anatomical terms, and
identify some of their functions
(SPHE Curriculum – 1st & 2nd Class – p. 27)
appreciate what is necessary in order to provide and care for new-born babies in both
the animal and human world
(SPHE Curriculum – 1st & 2nd Class – p. 28)

Third and Fourth Class:

Third Class: Preparing for New Life (RSE Teaching Materials p.70-79)
Vocabulary Introduced: Pregnancy umbilical cord navel (belly button)

Fourth Class: Themes include “The Wonder of New Life” and “Growing and Changing” which deal with all stages of pregnancy and birth and encourages children not to take these daily miracles for granted (respect). (RSE Teaching Materials p.170-181 & 196-205)

Vocabulary Introduced: Fertilized egg scan hormones cells

Relevant objectives from SPHE curriculum

The child should be enabled to develop an awareness of the different stages of the development of the baby in the womb.

Fifth and Sixth Class

Fifth Class: Themes developed include “My Body Grows and Changes”, “The Wonder of New Life” and “Caring for New Life” (RSE Teaching Materials p. 82-92 & 94-101)

Vocabulary Introduced: menstruation Periods Pubic areas Pubic Hair
Perspiration ovaries fallopian tubes uterus cervix

Sixth Class: Themes covered include “Growing and Changing”, “Relationships and New Life” and “A Baby is a miracle” (RSE Teaching Materials p. 184-197 & 200-208 & 210-219)

Vocabulary Introduced: Adolescence responsibilities
testicles scrotum sperm production erection wet dreams
conception

Objectives

:

The child should be enabled
discuss the stages and sequence of development of the human baby, from conception to birth

understand the physical changes taking place in both the male and female body
growing height and weight, increasing strength growing from boy to man, growing from girl to woman The child should be enabled to

identify and discuss the physical and other changes that occur in boys and girls with the onset of puberty and understand that these take place at different rates for everyone

female

hormonal changes, changing body shape

development of breasts, appearance of

pubic hair, onset of menstruation (periods)

male

hormonal changes, physical growth
 enlargement of testicles and penis
 appearance of pubic, underarm and facial hair
 breaking of the voice, beginning of sperm production
 onset of nocturnal emissions (wet dreams)
 understand the reproductive system of both male and female adults
 (SPHE Curriculum – 5th & 6th Class – p. 56)
 understand sexual intercourse, conception and birth within the context of a committed, loving relationship
 discuss and explore the responsibilities involved in being a parent and the emotional and physical maturity required to be a parent
 preparing for the birth of the baby taking care of offspring from birth onwards
 emotional, psychological and practical provisions
 (SPHE Curriculum – 5th & 6th Class – p. 58)

➤ Organisational 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 by children in the yard or classroom.
- Any teacher has the right to opt-out from teaching the sexually sensitive issues in RSE. It is responsibility of 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.

➤ Dealing with Questions:

All questions answered will reflect the parameters of the curriculum. Certain topics will **not** be discussed i.e. abortion, masturbation, homosexuality, contraception. Questions to the teacher may be written or oral within the group setting and answered within the boundaries of the curriculum and policy. Any questions asked by the children that are judged to be inappropriate, the teacher will refer the child to their parents. The school cannot guarantee confidentiality if a child asks a question of a personal nature to themselves or discloses personal information.

▪ **Provision for Ongoing Support**

- Parents welcome to view curriculum if they wish
- Regular contact with parents prior to the teaching of lessons involving “sensitive issues” in the form of the home/school link page accompanying such lessons in the RSE Resource Books **OR** Contact will be made with

- parents prior to the address by the outside speaker.
- “Going Forward Together” Booklet will be given to parents in Junior Infants at enrolment.

▪ **Review**

This policy will be reviewed by the RSE Policy Committee, in autumn 2009. This policy will also be reviewed should a need arise. Parents and staff will be informed of any amendments made by the RSE Policy Committee.