

All Children's IPS

Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy

(May 2017)

Ethos

All Children's Integrated Primary School, located in Newcastle, County Down, aims to provide a happy, secure environment in which children can learn effectively to realise their potential as unique individuals. This aim permeates the ethos of the school, the teaching styles and approaches and the pastoral care arrangements.

Our integrated status helps us provide an opportunity for children from the two main traditions in Northern Ireland as well as those of other traditions, including those from a non-religious background, to develop a knowledge, understanding, appreciation and respect for their common culture.

Our General Aims

1. To welcome pupils into a school community in which they can feel a sense of pride, loyalty and belonging and to encourage them to make their own personal contribution to enhance school life.
2. To assist each pupil to reach personal fulfilment and happiness and to develop the qualities of self-esteem, self-reliance, adaptability and physical wellbeing.
3. To ensure each pupil feels valued as an individual and that his/her opinions and concerns are listened to.
4. To achieve a happy, purposeful and disciplined atmosphere in the school.
5. To create an environment in school where pupils are safe and secure from harm.
6. To help pupils to develop positive, co-operative, respectful and tolerant attitudes and behaviours and to promote self-discipline.
7. To prepare pupils for secondary education.
8. To facilitate close and co-operative links with parents.

Rationale

RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) is a lifelong process which encompasses the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills and the development of attitudes, beliefs and values about personal and social relationships and gender issues.

Sexuality includes all aspects of the human personality and has biological, cultural, psychological, social and spiritual dimensions and should be taught as part of wider discussions on diversity in society and should refer to different forms of sexuality in the context of relationships.

This policy is intended to provide a framework through which our pupils can develop the skills, attitudes and values necessary to deal with the challenges they will meet in this very sensitive area. Our aims for this area of the curriculum (see below) provide further detail on why this is an important area.

RSE is a statutory element in the Northern Ireland Curriculum. The School's policy is in line with DE circulars 2001/15, 2010/01 and the RSE update for Primary Schools (CCEA, August 2015).

Policy Formation and Consultation Process

The policy has initially been written by the RSE Co-ordinator (Mrs Heaney) and developed through consultation with the Board of Governors, staff and **parent focus group**. **This is the part you are helping with**

Further amendment will be made through consultation with pupils who will be able to comment on the relevant parts of the policy and their views will be taken into account.

The policy will be on the school website and will be available in hard copy from the school office.

The Co-ordinator for RSE can be contacted with any feedback or comments.

Aims

The aims of RSE are to:

- Enhance the personal development, self- esteem, resilience and well-being of the pupils
- Help the pupils develop healthy and respectful friendships and relationships
- Foster an understanding of and a healthy attitude to human sexuality and relationships in a moral, social and spiritual framework, appropriate to the age and level of maturity of the pupil
- Promote responsible behaviour and the ability to make informed decisions within a moral framework
- Help the pupils to come to value family life
- Promote an appreciation of the value of human life

Objectives

The RSE curriculum should enable pupils to

- Form values and establish behaviour within a moral, spiritual and social framework
- Examine and explore the various relationships in their private lives
- Learn how to develop and enjoy personal relationships and friendships which are based on responsibility and mutual respect
- Teach the pupils to respect themselves and others in all aspects of their sexuality, personal relationships and personal safety

The RSE curriculum should therefore enable pupils to

- Develop the skills necessary to form and maintain relationships
- Make informed choices about their health and well being
- Assist in the development of age appropriate emotional maturity and positive self-esteem
- Develop communication, decision-making, problem-solving, inter-personal and leadership skills within the framework of the RSE curriculum

Morals and Values Framework

In our school, RSE is taught in a sensitive manner in conformity with the ethos of the school

Emphasis is placed upon:

- The importance of loving, stable relationships in helping pupils achieve their full potential emotionally and academically
- Teaching children about how their bodies change constantly as they grow
- Equipping pupils with the appropriate information as their bodies begin to, or enter puberty

It is important that RSE should enable pupils to feel comfortable and positive about themselves and how they behave in the context of their interactions with others within their close family relationships and with others.

Responding to sensitive issues

It is recognised that, on occasion, certain sensitive issues may require consideration. When attempting to deal with these issues the following procedures will be adopted:

1. Child Protection and Confidentiality

If, for any reason, a young person is deemed to be at risk, Child Protection procedures will be followed. If a child discloses that he/she has been abused, no child will be given a promise of confidentiality but will be assured that the information shared will only be disclosed to people who need to know. The pupil will be reassured that he/she will be supported.

2. Puberty

Any girl who begins menstruation at school will be treated sensitively and helped to deal with personal hygiene issues. The girls will know which member of staff to go to if they begin menstruating in school and appropriate sanitary equipment will be kept in school. Parents will be informed.

Name-calling and other forms of mistreatment

3. Pupils will learn that any name-calling or mistreatment on the grounds of perceived or actual sexual orientation is unacceptable in the context of a respectful and dignified learning environment. Bullying of this nature will be dealt with in line with the school's Anti-Bullying Policy.

Parental Responsibility

It is recognised that parents have the prime responsibility for bringing up their children and All Children's therefore seeks to ensure that the RSE programme complements and is supportive of the parents' role. It is paramount that partnerships with parents exist, particularly in relation to the sensitive issues mentioned above.

There is no statutory right to withdraw a pupil from RSE classes. However, the school will take account of any parental concerns expressed about any particular areas of the curriculum they have an objection to and seek to work with the parents to ensure the pupils have the information they need about any sensitive issues.

Co-ordination of RSE

Mrs Heaney is the member of staff responsible for co-ordinating RSE, as part of her role as the teacher responsible for Pastoral Care.

Delivery/Programmes

The pupils will generally be taught in mixed-gender groups unless it is deemed necessary to split into male/female groups to discuss sensitive issues.

Puberty talks will be given to P6 and P7 classes focussing on the emotional and physical changes which occur during puberty for boys and girls. Parents will be informed prior to the talks in P6 and P7 but consent would not be requested.

Teachers should refer to body parts by their correct names from P3 onwards as and when they arise in discussions.

The delivery of RSE will take place within a caring moral context, stressing the importance of stable, loving personal relationships and family life. The teaching will, at all times be appropriate to the age, maturity and the level of

understanding of the pupils concerned. All aspects of positive relationships are reinforced by the ethos and life of the school.

Many elements of RSE will be delivered in a cross-curricular manner within the PDMU (Personal Development and Mutual Understanding), TS & PC (Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities), World around Us, Communication and RE programmes of study. A variety of teaching methods are employed which reflect differences in learning styles and will take account of differentiation and pupils' ability levels.

Pupils with SEN will be considered to ensure they have full access to the RSE curriculum.

Staff training and development will be carried out to ensure the content is relevant and up to date. Planning can then be informed and current.

Rationale and use of Outside Agencies

As part of the teaching Programme, sessions will be taken by outside speakers and qualified professionals. These contributions are an integral part of the programme and help fulfil the aims as outside agencies can bring specialist knowledge and skills to the classroom. They can also help improve pupils' knowledge of the services which can be accessed in the local community.

Any outside agencies coming in to school will be given a copy of this policy, be made aware of the school's Child Protection Policy, agree to respect the ethos of the school, be made aware of the issue of confidentiality and be vetted as appropriate.

Communicating Details of our RSE Programme

Parent and child friendly leaflets explaining details of our programme will be distributed following completion of our detailed RSE scheme of work in 2016-2017. The parent leaflet should encourage parents or carers to discuss any issues which may arise in the classroom with their children. Further details of our work following outside agency workshops will also be communicated through our regular parent newsletter including passing on details of appropriate resources. Parents will also be encouraged to attend any relevant awareness-raising workshops

RSE Curriculum

Our RSE curriculum follows the relevant aspects of Relationships and Sexuality Education from the statutory requirements of the PDMU (Personal Development and Mutual Understanding) curriculum for Northern Ireland. In particular this connects with the following themes

Theme 1: Self-awareness

Theme 2: Feelings and Emotions

Theme 4: Health, Growth and Change

Theme 4a: Safety

Theme 5: Relationships

Theme 8: Similarities and Differences

Full details of these areas can be found in the document 'Relationships and Sexuality Education Guidance An Update for Primary Schools' (CCEA, August 2015)

Related school Policies

This policy is set within the broader school context of Pastoral care and as such should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Pastoral Care Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy / Promotion of Positive Behaviour Policy
- Drugs Policy
- Internet Safety/E-safety Policy

Monitoring and Evaluation

The school recognises the importance of on-going monitoring and evaluation of the RSE programme. The Policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis by the Co-ordinator to ensure it is current and relevant and takes on-board any guidance or updates are made by DENI. It should also be reviewed following any new consultations with parents, staff or pupils. It is foreseen that a full review of the policy will next occur in 2020.

Appendices

1. Relevant resources to support the implementation of our curriculum
2. Relevant DENI Circulars
3. Outside agencies which support our programme

Appendix 1

Resources to Support our Curriculum

E-safety

www.saferinternet.org.uk

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.childnet/teachers-and-professionals

www.kidsmart.org.uk

www.mumsnet.com

Recognising and challenging inappropriate behaviour and touch

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.safertoknow.info

www.kidscape.org

Dealing with homophobia

www.exceedingexpectations.org.uk

www.endbullying.org.uk

Appendix 2

Relevant DENI Curriculars and Guidance Materials

Circular 2001/15, Circular 2010/01

Relationships and Sexuality Education Guidance 'An Update for Primary Schools' (August 2015)

Appendix 3

Outside Agencies which support the delivery of our RSE Curriculum

NSPCC

Women's Aid

Kidscape

PSNI

Sustrans

NI Water

Northern Ireland Electricity