



# R.S.E. Policy

- **School Name:** Moycarkey National School  
**Address:** Pouldine, Thurles, Co. Tipperary  
**Phone Number:** (0504)44439  
**Category:** Mixed Large Catholic School
- **School Philosophy** Moycarkey National School is a Catholic School and all policies developed are in keeping with the ethos of the school. Our ethos is characterised by the following:
  1. Promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil.
  2. **Moycarkey National School** will endeavour to enhance the confidence and self-esteem of everyone in the school community, to imbue in the pupils respect for all people and property and to encourage in them the idea of being responsible citizens.
  3. **Moycarkey National School** will promote gender equity amongst the teachers and pupils.
  4. **Moycarkey National School** will encourage the involvement of parents through home/school contacts and through their involvement in Moycarkey National School Parents Association.
- **Definition of RSE** : RSE aims to provide opportunities for children and young people to learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help them think and act in a moral, caring and responsible way.
- **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. The content of a school's SPHE programme will include a wide range of topics such as healthy eating, alcohol, drugs, environmental issues, safety and social responsibility, as well as RSE.

- **Current Provision:**
  1. Specific Programmes e.g. Stay Safe, Walk Tall, Alive O.
  2. Existing School Subjects e.g. Religious Education, SPHE programme.
  3. Special Initiatives e.g. Anger Management, coping with stress etc. in the context of the SEN programme. A suitably qualified guest speaker will speak to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class on sensitive areas of RSE.
  4. Informal provision e.g. Supportive School and Classroom Climate, School Rules.
  
- **Aims of our RSE programme**
  - ✓ To help young people develop healthy friendship and relationships
  - ✓ To promote a healthy attitude to sexuality and to relationships
  - ✓ To enable young people to develop healthy attitudes and values towards their sexuality in a moral, spiritual and social framework.
  - ✓ 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.

**Curriculum Matters:** c/f appendix 1 for content for each class level

An outside speaker will address elements of the sexually sensitive areas in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class. All resources used will be in keeping with the ethos of this school and this RSE policy.

**Organisational Matters:** We in Moycarkey National School respect the role of the parent as the primary educator of their child. As a result before any teaching of RSE sensitive issues in class, parents will receive a copy of the content.

Parents will be informed of the RSE content at enrolment and asked to give consent to this programme.

Parents are welcome to view the curriculum if they wish. Regular contact will be made with parents prior to the teaching of sensitive issues of R.S.E. in the home-school link page accompanying the lessons in the RSE books. Contact will also be made with parents prior to the address made by the outside speaker.

Parents have the option to opt their child out of the sensitive areas of RSE. If this happens (needs discussion) with regards to matter of a confidential nature the school cannot accept responsibility for what is discussed in the yard or outside of the classroom.

Any teacher has a right to withdraw from the sexually sensitive areas of RSE. Because of this it is then the responsibility of the Board of Management to ensure that the curriculum content is taught to the children by another teacher or an outside speaker.

Parents are welcome to view RSE content at any time or discuss with class teachers if they have any concerns.

**Dealing with Questions** All children's questions will be dealt with within the parameters of the curriculum.

Any questions asked by children that are deemed inappropriate will be referred back to their parents.

The school cannot guarantee confidentiality if a child asks a question of a personal nature to themselves or discloses personal information.

This policy will be reviewed after the initial 12 month period has passed and every two years thereafter. The policy may need to be amended if any issue should arise. Parents and staff will be informed of any amendments made to the policy.

### **Appendix**

**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          vagina          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 term  
(SPHE Curriculum – Infants – p17)

### **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

**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



**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

**Relevant Objectives from SPHE Curriculum:**

The child should be enabled

- 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 reproduction system of both male and female adults (SPHE Curriculum – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 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 a baby taking care of offspring from birth onwards emotional, psychological and practical provisions
  - (SPHE Curriculum – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class – p. 58)
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