

Dunclug Primary School



Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)

POLICY STATEMENT

The ethos of Dunclug Primary School centres around the maintenance of a stimulating, caring and safe environment in which pupils, parents and staff work together to develop self-respect and respect for others. This document reflects the aims and objectives of this school, whilst taking account of **RSE Guidance for Primary Schools**:

“The general aim of education is to contribute towards the development of all aspects of the individual, including the aesthetic, creative, critical, cultural, emotional, moral, physical, political, social and spiritual development for personal and family life, for living in the community and for leisure. Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is clearly a part of this general aim.”

RATIONALE

Dunclug Primary School is committed to the education of children regardless of race, religion, gender or status. Relationships and sexuality are integral parts of the human personality and impact biologically, psychologically, culturally, socially and spiritually. The caring ethos of the school is the foundation of our RSE policy.

RSE is a lifelong process that involves the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills, and the development of attitudes, beliefs, morals and values.

AIMS

- To place the pupil at the centre of a programme that helps them to understand the values and morals inherent within the context of personal development
- To equip children with the skills and knowledge necessary to make informed choices and decisions about their own behaviour and safety
- To make children aware that actions have consequences and that their behaviour should reflect this
- To promote in children a positive feeling of self-worth so that each child develops an awareness that they are special and unique
- To help children develop healthy and respectful relationships by encouraging positive role modelling within the school environment
- To promote a healthy attitude to sexuality
- To give children the opportunity to understand and deal with their feelings

- To develop self-confidence and resilience in pupils so that they have appropriate strategies to cope with difficult situations such as detrimental peer pressure

MORAL AND VALUES FRAMEWORK

In Dunclug Primary School we recognise the equal value of all of our pupils. The diversity of family life is recognised. Stable, caring and loving relationships will be presented to our pupils as the ideal. RSE is not intended to be free of values. Our programme therefore aims to present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner, set within a clear framework based on the values of self-respect and respect for others, and an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour. It is tailored to the age, maturity and understanding of the pupils.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Governors examines, approves and ratifies the Policy.

The Principal ensures a co-ordinated approach to RSE and consults with the Board of Governors, staff, parents, health professionals and others.

Staff will be provided with and will undertake appropriate training, and plan for and implement the RSE programme within Dunclug.

Parents share a complementary role with school staff in promoting self-respect and respect for others.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Dunclug Primary School strives to ensure that our RSE programme is relevant and accessible to pupils, regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, religion or social class. The school is sensitive to the views of parents and will make suitable arrangements, should a parent wish to withdraw a child from a particular aspect of RSE. However, the school also recognises that the teaching of RSE is a statutory requirement and will discourage withdrawal whenever possible.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed: if a child makes a disclosure of a confidential nature, it will be treated with sensitivity but child protection procedures will be implemented in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy. A copy of the Safeguarding Policy is available at the school office for parents' inspection.

ORGANISATION OF THE CURRICULUM

RSE will be taught in a holistic and cross-curricular way. Issues can be integrated within specific topics addressed through health education, pastoral work and at assembly time. In many instances, RSE shares content with PDMU, WAU and RE. Although specific topics will be addressed, other areas may arise incidentally and will always be treated with sensitivity. Staff will use a variety of teaching strategies and approaches in keeping with the age and understanding of the pupils. The class teacher will deliver most of the RSE programme. However, occasions will arise when the expertise of outside agencies will be utilised, for example, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, our School Counsellor, the organisation *Love for Life* and the NSPCC.

TERMINOLOGY

In teaching issues related to RSE, teachers will use the correct biological terms for parts of the body. The use of common slang will be avoided.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The provision for Relationships and Sexuality Education within Dunclug Primary School will be monitored through lesson observations, planning notes and schemes of work. Teachers are required to evaluate the teaching and learning within their own classroom to inform future planning. Liaison with the school nursing service will form part of the whole school evaluation.

LINKED POLICIES

The RSE Policy forms a part of our overall Pastoral Care Policy at Dunclug Primary School and is therefore closely linked to the other Pastoral Care Policies of Safeguarding, Drug Education, Addressing bullying, Intimate Care and our Positive Behaviour policy. This policy also complements and supports a range of other school policies such as; WAU, RE and PDMU.

RESOURCES

NSPCC Underwear Rule Resources

Living. Learning. Together. Resources Pack

DE Circulars 1999/10, 2001/15, 2007/06, 2010/01, 2013/16

Relationships and Sexuality Education – Guidance for Primary Schools (DE Circulars 2001/15a and 2001/15b)

DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY

The content of this policy will be made available to all the Board of Governors, all members of the school staff team (including those providing substitute cover). It will also be available to parents (hard copy on request) and on the school website. All outside agencies/visiting professionals and the school nurse, will be provided with a copy of the policy and instructed to follow the procedures therein.

WORKING WITH OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Dunclug Primary may at times use the expertise of outside agencies. When appropriate, suitably qualified, experienced or knowledgeable visitors from outside agencies, both statutory and non-statutory may be invited to contribute to the delivery of the RSE curriculum in school.

For example, during Primary 6/7, our pupils will participate in a workshop led by the Christian organisation 'Love for Life.' *Love for Life* will speak to the pupils (in single sex groups) about the changes that occur at puberty. The content of the sessions encourages pupils to build foundations in developing a healthy respect for themselves, understanding the complex world of relationships and being prepared for the physical changes that puberty will present. Only children with parental/carer consent will participate in these workshops.

REVIEW

This policy is a living document and will be reviewed annually to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. This may result in a change of organisation, method or content as required. The review will be achieved through consultation with staff and Governors, liaison with parents and pupils and through direct observation of the school's curriculum and procedures.

Pupils will have the opportunity to provide feedback about the content of the programme of RSE delivered by the school so that it can be responsive to their needs. In Dunclug Primary School this is done through consultation with the Primary 6 and Primary 7 members of the School's Pupil Council and Eco Council.

APPENDIX 1: Curriculum Overview

APPENDIX 2: Useful links

Appendix I

Curriculum Overview for RSE
Foundation Stage

TOPICS/THEMES	P1	P2
Myself		
Parts of the body.	✓	
Being myself.	✓	
Similarities and differences between myself and others.	✓	✓
The stages of human development.	✓	
Recognising moods, feelings and concerns and developing a language for expressing moods, feelings and concerns.		✓
Personal likes and dislikes.		✓
My Relationships		
My family, special people in my life.		✓
Friendships.	✓	✓
Ageing.	✓	✓
Loss and mourning.		
Respect and caring for family members and friends.		✓
Bullies.		
Personal safety. simple skills and practices.		✓
Good and bad touches.		✓
Adults and older children are not always friends.		✓
The potential danger of relationships with strangers or acquaintances.		✓
Strategies for dealing with potentially dangerous situations.		
My Community/Environment		
Different types of families.		
Roles of individuals within families.		
Keeping safe.	✓	
Rules at home, at school and in the community.		✓
Respect and caring for people in the community.		

Curriculum Overview for RSE

Key Stage One

TOPICS/THEMES	P3	P4
<u>Myself</u>		
Parts of the body.		✓
Being myself.		
Similarities and differences between myself and others.	✓	
The stages of human development.		
Recognising moods, feelings and concerns and developing a language for expressing moods, feelings and concerns.	✓	✓
Personal likes and dislikes.		✓
<u>My Relationships</u>		
My family, special people in my life.		✓
Friendships.	✓	✓
Ageing.		
Loss and mourning.	✓	
Respect and caring for family members and friends.	✓	
Bullies.	✓	✓
Personal safety. simple skills and practices.	✓	✓
Good and bad touches.		
Adults and older children are not always friends.		✓
The potential danger of relationships with strangers or acquaintances.	✓	
Strategies for dealing with potentially dangerous situations.	✓	✓
<u>My Community/Environment</u>		
Different types of families.		✓
Roles of individuals within families.		✓
Keeping safe.	✓	✓
Rules at home, at school and in the community.	✓	✓
Respect and caring for people in the community.	✓	

Curriculum Overview for RSE KS2

TOPICS/THEMES	P5	P6	P7
<u>Myself</u>			
My body, how it works.	✓		
My body, how to keep it healthy.	✓	✓	✓
The physical, social and emotional changes which occur during puberty		✓	✓
Myself and my peers, different rates of growth and physical development.		✓	✓
Valuing and respecting myself.	✓		✓
Identifying personal strengths and weaknesses.	✓	✓	✓
Identifying feelings; expressing feelings.	✓	✓	✓
Gender roles.	✓		
Making choices.	✓		✓
The consequences of actions.	✓		✓
Distinguishing between right and wrong.	✓		
Secrets.		✓	
How babies begin and are born.		✓	
How babies grow.		✓	
The skills necessary for parenting.			✓
The importance of good parenting.		✓	
<u>My Relationships</u>			
The positive traits of friendship.	✓		✓
Differences and similarities in people.	✓		✓
Respect of other people's views, emotions and feelings.	✓		✓
Families and how they behave.	✓		✓
The meaning of friendship and loyalty.	✓		✓
Making and maintaining friendships and social relationships.	✓		✓
Handling difficult situations.	✓	✓	✓
Relationships within families, friends and in the community.	✓	✓	✓
Appropriate and non-appropriate physical contact.			✓

Identifying dangers and risks within relationships.		✓	
Being assertive.		✓	
People who can help pupils.	✓		✓
<u>My Community/Environment</u>			
The family in relation to the school and the wider community.	✓	✓	✓
The family in relation to the wider community.	✓		✓
Cultural differences in families and family relationships.	✓	✓	
Helping agencies which can support families and individuals in different circumstances.	✓	✓	
Messages and images about health, gender roles and sexuality.			✓

Appendix 2: Useful Links

NSPCC – www.nspcc.org.uk - 028 90351135

Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland – 028 90311611

Childline UK – 0800 1111

Kidscape – 020 77303300

Barnardos – www.barnardos.org.uk

[School Nurse – Shirley Beattie 028 95041847](mailto:Shirley.Beattie@nhs.uk)

Love for Life - <https://www.loveforlife.org.uk/>