

**St. Mary's Primary School
and Nursery Unit, Killyclogher**



**Relationships and Sexuality
Policy**

Review of Policy	September 2019
Ratification of Policy by the Board of Governors	November 2019
Next Review Date	November 2022

Rationale

We in St. Mary's Primary School, Killyclogher, view the development and implementation of a policy in Relationships and Sexuality (RSE) as an important step towards achieving our aim to develop all aspects of a child's personality and growth. The morals and values of our Catholic Faith are the core principles that underpin the teaching of RSE. Sexuality includes all aspects of the human person that relate to being male or female and is subject to change and development throughout life. It is a complex dimension of human life and relationships. As the learning process begins informally in the home we will endeavour to engage in full consultation with parents regarding the aims, objectives and teaching programme of this policy and their views will be considered when implementing and reviewing the policy.

Teaching RSE should provide opportunities that enable pupils to:

- Form values and establish behaviour within a moral, spiritual and social framework
- Learn how to develop and enjoy personal relationships and friendships which are based on responsibility and mutual respect
- Build the foundations for developing more positive personal relationships in later life
- Make positive, responsible choices about themselves and others and the way they live their lives.

Aims

In St. Mary's Primary School we aim to:

- Develop a loving pride in one's family and an active association with one's parish
- Promote an appreciation of the importance of the family unit (regardless of structure/composition)
- Enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well-being of each child
- Help the children to develop healthy and respectful friendships within the school and at home
- Develop an understanding of how human relationships grow and deepen through friendship, love and affection
- Promote an appreciation of the value of human life and the wonder of birth

Learning Outcomes

The RSE curriculum should enable pupils to:

- Develop a positive sense of self awareness, self-esteem and self-worth
- Develop an appreciation of the dignity, uniqueness and well being of others
- Develop personal skills which help to establish and sustain healthy personal relationships
- Acquire and improve skills of communication and social interaction
- Acquire and use an appropriate vocabulary to discuss feelings, sexuality, growth and development
- Become aware of the variety of ways in which individuals grow and change
- Develop a critical understanding of external influences on lifestyles and decision making

Skills

The RSE curriculum should enable pupils to develop

- Communication skills – putting one's own views clearly and appropriately; listening to others' points of view; handling and resolving conflict peacefully
- Decision making and problem solving skills – for sensible and responsible choices; making moral judgements about what to do in actual situations
- Interpersonal skills for managing relationships confidently and effectively; for developing as an effective group member or leader
- Practical skills – for everyday living; for supporting others; for future parenting

Morals and Values

The RSE curriculum promotes the moral values of our Catholic faith and enables the children to begin to develop:

- A respect for self
- A respect for others
- Honesty with self and others
- Self-discipline
- The difference between right and wrong
- The responsibility for ones' own actions
- The recognition of the moral dimension to situations
- An understanding of the long term and short term consequences of their actions

How Will We Achieve Our Aims?

Children will also learn on a day-to-day basis from the Christian example set by adults:

➤ At home:

As first educators, parents are expected to lay the foundations for all acceptable patterns of behaviour, leading by example, and sharing with school the joint task of bringing the child through to the age of eleven with a balanced understanding of life and a healthy appreciation of the human relationships they form in years to come.

➤ At school:

- The friendly school environment created by staff who work in the building
- The messages we give out to children through religious celebrations, assemblies, discussions, workshops etc
- The encouragement we give and the standards we uphold in terms of sportsmanship, fair play, accepting decisions
- and taking both winning and losing in the same spirit
- The respect we have for and show to all members of our community

Equal Opportunities

Generally, RSE will be taught in mixed groups, so that boys and girls are encouraged to work with each other and gain an understanding of each other's perspectives. However, there will be times that teachers or the school nurse will work with single gender groups, e.g. P7 Love for Life programme, to explore puberty related physical and emotional changes in both boys and girls.

The programme of RSE delivered will be accessible to all pupils regardless of age, culture, disability, sexual orientation, gender or social class.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every three years. Feedback from teachers, parents, governors, outside agencies and pupils will feed into the process. Necessary changes in policy will be implemented.

Signed: _____ Chairperson

_____ Principal