



Yellow Furze N.S.

RSE POLICY

&

CLASS INFORMATION SUMMARIES

2021



Relationship and Sexuality Education Policy

School Details:

Yellow Furze N.S. is a mixed Roman Catholic school. There are 9 classes in the school with an enrolment of 235 pupils.

Introductory Statement

The RSE policy for Yellow Furze N.S. was drawn up by the staff with the assistance of a cuiditheoir in 2008. It was subsequently reviewed in 2012.

Staff recognise that Parents and Guardians have the primary responsibility for educating their children in sexual matters.

This policy is cognisant of all aspects of our current Child Protection Policy. The school follows the DES child protection guidelines and has a child protection policy with the Principal as Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and the Deputy Principal as the Deputy DLP. Where a child protection concern is raised, the procedures outlined in the schools Child Protection Policy will be followed.

School Philosophy

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:

- Sensitive to reality of our children's lives in a changing world.
- Mutual respect between all partners in education.
- Child-centred.
- Aims to ensure each child reaches full potential in the holistic sense.
- Hopes that children are equipped with high self-esteem to enable them to go to live happy and fulfilled lives.

Definition of RSE

Relationship and Sexuality education (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 (SPHE) provides opportunities for pupils to learn basic personal and social skills which foster integrity, self-confidence and self-esteem while nurturing sensitivity to the feelings and rights of others.

Current Provision included in the school curriculum is:

- SPHE lessons
- Stay safe Programme
- Walk Tall Programme
- Adapted resources for SEN (available on the PDST website)
- Webwise resources
- Religious Education

Aims of our RSE programme

- To help young people develop healthy friendships and relationships
- To promote a healthy attitude to sexuality and to relationships
- To enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well-being of the child
- To foster an understanding of, and a healthy attitude to, human sexuality and relationships in a moral, spiritual and social framework
- To enable the child to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, human love, sexual intercourse and reproduction- Fifth and Sixth Class
- To understand the physical changes taking place with the onset of puberty- Senior Classes
- 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.

Policies that support SPHE/RSE

- Code of behaviour
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Enrolment Policy
- Healthy Eating Policy
- Acceptable Use Policy
- GDPR Policy
- Inclusion Policy

In keeping with the sentiment and spirit of these policies, we support informally many of the aims on which RSE is modelled. We encourage good behaviour, open communication, understanding and tolerance of differences, and respect for self and others. We recognise that both pupils and staff have rights and responsibilities in our school. A sense of responsibility is fostered and attention is paid to the wellbeing of all of the members of the school community.

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 from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. All resources used will be in keeping with the ethos of the school and the policy. Each class teacher will teach the content for their class level.
- Where an outside speaker is used, the class teacher will remain in the classroom. The speaker will be made aware of the school's RSE policy.
- The Stay Safe programme will be implemented throughout the school.
- The class teachers will coordinate the teaching of Stay Safe during the school year as per the two year SPHE plan

Topics covered up to 2nd class include:

- Keeping Safe
- Bodily changes during growth and birth (birth to 9)
- Making age appropriate choices
- Appreciating family life
- Recognising and expressing feelings
- Self-care, hygiene, diet, exercise and sleep
- Expressing opinions and listening to others
- Naming the parts of the male/ female body using appropriate anatomical terms (Junior/ Senior Infants)
- Naming the parts of the male/ female body using appropriate anatomical terms and identify some of their functions (1st/2nd)

Topics from 3rd to Sixth include:

- Bodily changes
- Healthy eating, personal hygiene, exercise
- Keeping Safe
- Expressing Feelings
- Family relationships
- Making healthy and responsible decisions
- Forming Friendships
- Discuss the stages and sequence of development of the human baby in the womb (*Fourth class*)
- Changes that occur in boys and girls with the onset of puberty (*Third to Sixth Class*)
- Reproductive system of male/female adults (*Fifth and Sixth Class*)
- Understanding sexual intercourse, conception and birth within the context of a committed loving relationship. (*Fifth and Sixth Class*)

Sensitive classes are taught in 3^d, 4th, 5th and 6th class each year.

Organisational Matters:

- Parents will be informed in advance of lessons on the sensitive areas of the RSE programme.
- If parents do not give consent for their child to participate in any aspect of the RSE programme they must give a notice in writing to the school that they are withdrawing their child. This notice will be centrally filed. The child will be accommodated in another teacher's classroom in the school with the minimum of fuss.
- Parents have a responsibility to become involved, to inform themselves of the programme content and to prepare children for the information they will acquire around the sensitive areas and discuss areas covered in RSE/SPHE. Parents are invited/welcome to view the curriculum and may speak to the class teacher if they have any concerns.
- In the class situation children will be encouraged to recognise that certain information is for them only and it would be inappropriate to discuss this with younger siblings/children for example.
- With regard to matters of a confidential nature, the school cannot take any responsibility for what is discussed in the yard or classroom, Should a child who is withdrawn from the sexually sensitive lessons receive inappropriate information from others outside the of these classes, it will be the responsibility of the parents/guardians to address the issues.
- If a Teacher has concerns about teaching the "sexually sensitive issues" in RSE they should consult with the Principal. Any teacher has the right to opt out of teaching the "sensitive parts" of RSE. It is the responsibility of the B.O.M. to ensure content is covered by another teacher or an outside speaker.
- Children with SEN – Taking into account the pupil's social and emotional development, instruction will be based on individual needs where possible. Parents will be consulted around sensitive issues.

Dealing with Questions:

It is natural that children should wish to ask questions in the area of RSE. However, this area is treated somewhat differently from other subjects due to its sensitive nature.

All questions answered will reflect the parameters of the curriculum. Certain topics are not in the primary RSE/SPHE programme and will not be discussed i.e.: abortion, masturbation, homosexuality, contraception.

Questions to the teacher may be oral or written within the group setting and answered within boundaries of the curriculum and school policy. If any questions asked by children are deemed to be inappropriate, the teacher will refer the child to their parents/guardians, or state that this information may be available at a later stage of the curriculum. The school cannot guarantee confidentiality if a child asks a question of a personal nature or discloses personal information.

At all times the child's and teacher's right to privacy will be maintained.

Children's questions will be dealt with, taking into account the following criteria, when relevant

- By being aware of circumstances in which the question has arisen
- By clarifying what information is required
- By deciding if the issue is relevant/who it is relevant to
- By giving an age appropriate answer
- By deferring the question as one which will be answered in the next lesson, one which should be answered at home or one which will be answered more fully in the future

Parental Involvement

- Parents are welcome to view the curriculum and resources if they wish. These are available in the secretary's office.
- Parents will be informed in advance when formal lessons on the sensitive areas of the programme and will be asked to discuss these issues with their child prior to the lessons in school
- Use of the home/school links pages accompanying such lessons in the RSE Resource books.
- The Parents Association may on occasion arrange for speakers/meetings to help them in the task of communicating with their children on aspects of their development.

Resources

- Lesson plans from the DES Resource Material for Relationships and Sexuality Education. Each class teacher has a copy of the appropriate manual.
- The Stay Safe programme, the Walk Tall Programme.
- Busy Bodies DVD and booklet. This DVD and booklet were developed to support the teaching of the 5th and 6th class component of RSE within the context of SPHE. It is available for download at www.healthpromotion.ie
- All resources are available for parents/guardians to view if they so request prior to the delivery of the lesson.

Provision for Ongoing Support

- Parents welcome to view curriculum if they wish.
- Opportunities provided by our Education Centre will be brought to the attention of staff members.

Review

The policy will be reviewed in May 2023.

The policy may also be reviewed should a need arise. Parents and staff will be informed of any amendments made.

This plan was ratified by the Board of Management at a meeting on:

Date: May 2021

Signed: Mr. C. Farrell
Chairperson:

Signed: Mrs. N. Rooney
Principal:

Ms. Helen Hickey
Co-ordinator