

**Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy at Melview N.S.**

**School Philosophy:**

Melview National School promotes values in a Christian learning community where children can grow in knowledge and understanding in the acquisition of skills, attitudes and values.

**Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)**

At primary level, R.S.E. aims to help children learn at home and at school about their own development and about their friendships with others. Learning will be based on developing a positive self-image, promoting respect for themselves & others and providing children with appropriate information for their age group.

**Relationship of RSE to S.P.H.E.:**

R.S.E. is part of the Department of Education & Science’s Social, Physical and Health Education (SPHE) Programme. The RSE programme recognises the role of education in the holistic development of the child, while taking into account the roles of the partners in education – parents/school/Department of Education and Science/HSE– in this process.

**The Aims of the R.S.E. Programme:**

* To enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well being of the child.
* To help the child to develop healthy friendships and relationships.
* To foster an understanding of, and a healthy attitude to, human sexuality and relationships in a moral, spiritual and social frame of work.
* To enable the child to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, human love, sexual intercourse and reproduction.
* To develop and promote in the child a sense of wonder and awe at the process at birth and new life.
* To enable the child be comfortable with the sexuality of oneself and others while growing and developing.

**School Policies and Curricular Plans which support our RSE:**

Traditionally, we are a child centred school. The educational and emotional needs of the children in our care are central to our curricular planning and policy making processes. The policies and curricular areas below support our teaching of RSE:

* SPHE Curriculum
* Grow in Love
* Child Protection Policy
* Stay Safe Programme
* Weaving Well Being Programme
* Incredible Years Behaviour Programme
* Busy Bodies (HSE Programme)
* School’s Code of Behaviour
* Anti-Bullying Policy
* Healthy Eating Policy.
* Enrolment Policy.
* ICT Acceptable User Policy

In keeping with the sentiment and spirit of these policies we informally support many of the aims on which RSE is modelled:

* We encourage good behaviour, open communication, understanding and tolerance of differences, and respect for staff 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 well- being of all the members of our school community.
* **Implementing the R.S.E. Programme – How it will be taught.**
* Parents/Guardians are the primary educators of their children.
* The successful implementation of the programme will depend on parents/guardians co-operation and contribution.
* The RSE programme will be taught as part of the schools SPHE curriculum. Busy Body Sex Education Programme will be taught to 6th class in June each year. Parents/guardians will be advised of same in advance of teaching this area.
* The programme’s resource material, including lesson plans, will be available in the school should parents wish to view.

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|  | Overview of content: |
| Themes 1st Class | * Things I like to do * My Friends * My Family * Keeping Safe * Showing our Feelings * The Wonder of New Life * How My Body Works * Growing Means Changing * Decisions and their Consequences |
| Themes 2nd Class | * Other People are Special * Being Friends * My Family * Keeping Safe * Coping with Our Feelings * The Wonder of New Life * When my Body needs Special Care * Growing and Changing * Personal Decisions |
| Themes 3rd Class | * Special Gifts * Sometimes Friends Fight * My Family * Keeping Safe * Expressing Feelings * Preparing for New Life * Our Senses * As I Grow I Change * Making Decisions |
| Themes 4th Class | * Myself and Others * Bullying Behaviour * My Family * Reasons for Rules * Feelings and Emotions * Being Clean- Keeping Healthy * Growing and Changing * Problem-Solving |
| Themes 5th Class | * The Person I am * Different Kinds of Friends * My Family * Keeping Safe * Feelings and Emotions * My Body Grows and Changes * Caring for New Life * Making Healthy Decisions |
| Themes 6th Class | * Me and My Aspirations * Different Kinds of Love * Families * Keeping Safe and Healthy * Feelings and Emotions * Growing and Changing * Relationships and New Life * A Baby is a Miracle * Choices and Decision-Making |

Ongoing support, development and review

The Board of Management, staff, pupils and parents of Melview National School support the implementation of the RSE programme. We recognise that our school has a supportive role to that of the home and we have a commitment to ensuring that our teachers have access to in-career development opportunities and access to relevant teaching materials.

**Teaching Methodologies/Approaches**:

* Integration with other curricular areas, SPHE, SESE, Art, Religion and Drama.
* Direct Teaching for the discrete, sensitive areas of the programme.
* Discussion, group work, role play, circle time, video education.

**Parents’ Concerns**

Any queries Parents/Guardians may have will be dealt with as follows:

1. Consultation with class teacher.
2. Consultation with Principal
3. Consultation with Board of Management.

**Withdrawal:**

A parents’ right to withdraw a pupil from the process will be honoured on the understanding that the parent is taking full responsibility for this aspect of education. *It is the responsibility of the parent to inform the school in writing of this decision.*

**Procedures for evaluation and review of R.S.E. Programme**

This Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy was reviewed by Principal & Staff during the period September – December 2019.

The R.S.E. Policy will be reviewed in 2021/22.

**Presented, reviewed and ratified by B.O.M on 16/1/2020**

**Chairperson:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Principal: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: 16th January 2020**