

## **Scoil Naomh Pio**

### **Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy (RSE)**

#### **Introductory Statement**

This policy has been formulated following consultation and agreement among teaching staff of Scoil Naomh Pio School and Board of Management representatives.

The Staff of Scoil Naomh Pio formulated this school policy on R.S.E., in consultation with our Board of Management and our Parents. This policy applies to all aspects of teaching and learning about relationships and sexuality. This policy applies to the school staff, students, Board of Management, parents / guardians, visiting speakers and external facilitators. Our policy is in line with the Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy Guidelines issued by the D.E.S. in 1997. The R.S.E. programme is offered to the children of Scoil Naomh Pio as part of the Social, Personal and Health (S.P.H.E.) element of the curriculum. Rationale: R.S.E. provides structured opportunities for pupils to acquire a knowledge and understanding of human relationships and sexuality through processes which enable them to form values and to establish behaviours within a moral, spiritual and social framework, appropriate to their age. R.S.E. will be taught in accordance with the Department's directives and within the Philosophy framework of the school. Teachers will not teach any content outside the Religion programme used by the school or the D.E.S. curriculum. The teaching methods used in the school are child centred and reflect the age and stage of development of each child. Sensitive issues will be dealt with appropriately.

#### **Overview of RSE programme**

##### **Aims**

To enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well-being of each child.

- To help children develop healthy friendships and relationships.
- To promote an understanding and healthy attitude to sexuality and relationships.
- To promote knowledge of and respect for reproduction.
- To provide structured opportunities for the children to acquire a knowledge and understanding of human relationships and sexuality, within an appropriate moral and spiritual framework.

## **Content**

There are nine themes in the RSE programme, which are covered each year in our whole school SPHE plan. The programme is spiral in nature, which means that the key topics will be revisited, in a developmental manner each year.

## **Parental Involvement**

Relationships and Sexuality Education is an on-going process throughout life. Parents and the family are acknowledged as the primary educators of their children. We work in a supportive role with the parents of our school, by complementing their role with a school based programme in RSE. A copy of the “Home School link” hand-outs will be provided to parents of children as the children are completing the lessons in school. In classes from 4th to 6th, parents are provided with these hand-outs before the lessons begin. If parents are concerned about the more sensitive aspects of the R.S.E programme, they are welcome to visit the school to examine the content of the programmes and discuss their concerns with the Principal. Following this meeting if parents wish to have their child/ren withdrawn when sensitive issues are being taught, they are requested to submit this in writing to the Principal. Parents will be expected to make their wishes known each year to the new class teacher. Efforts will be made by the school, using the resources it has, to accommodate these children by providing supervision within another classroom.

## **Teachers’ concerns**

The approach to the teaching of RSE will be kept as normal as possible and will usually be delivered within the child’s class by the class teacher. A teacher who is concerned about teaching a particular topic within the R.S.E. programme should talk to the Principal about his/her concerns. Such concerns will be handled discreetly. The Board of Management will endeavour to accommodate such teachers.

Resources outside the school profession may be availed of if considered appropriate. For some lessons for the older classes, topics will be taught to boys and girls separately. For the topic of “My body grows and changes” in Sixth Class an outside facilitator will visit the class and discuss this topic. The class teacher remains in the classroom at all times.

## **Terminology**

In teaching issues relating to RSE, teachers use the correct biological terms for parts of the body. Dealing with questions Teachers or external visitors do not cover content outside that of the D.E.S curriculum or our school’s religion programme. Answers to questions must be in line with the Catholic Church’s teaching. Teachers should answer questions in a sensitive, sensible and age appropriate manner. Teachers should be aware that there are children in our school from many social backgrounds. No child should be made to feel uncomfortable or embarrassed when these issues are raised. Children who ask questions in class on content outside the curriculum

taught, should be talked to individually and discretely by the teacher, and should be encouraged to seek answers from their parents. If a child poses such a question, the parents will be informed and asked not to ignore it but to deal with it as they see fit.

### **Confidentiality and Child Protection**

Where there is a disclosure by a child of abuse, the school will follow the DES Child Protection Guidelines and the guidelines set out in “Children First”.

### **Success Criteria**

The success of plan is measured by the following criteria:

- Implementation of the plan will be evident in the teaching and learning of lessons – pupils will be seen engaging and participating in lessons and using resources
- Continuity of content and methodology will be evident in teachers’ planning and reports (Fortnightly and Monthly)
- The assessments from the RSE programme will be followed by all teachers
- Pupils will display a positive and informed attitude towards RSE
- Feedback from parents, teachers and other members of the school community

### **Implementation**

#### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Class teachers are responsible for the implementation of this RSE plan in their own classes. The post-holder responsible for SPHE monitors and supports the implementation of the plan and is responsible for the purchase and monitoring of resources.

#### **Timeframe**

This plan will be implemented over the three school years from 2022-2024

**Review**

Progress made in the implementation of this plan will be reviewed at the end of the school year 2024 and the plan will be renewed again in 2025.

**Ratification**

This plan was presented to the Board of Management for ratification in January 2022.

**Communication**

It will be circulated to all teachers and implemented in all classes from January 2022 . A copy of the plan will be made available on request to parents.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Appendix 1**

**RSE Themes**  
**(“Resource Materials for Relationships and Sexuality Education” – DES Publication)**

<b>Junior Infants/Senior Infants Year 1</b>	<b>Junior/Senior Infants Year 2</b>	<b>First Class/Second Class Year 1</b>	<b>First/Second Class Year 2</b>
<p style="text-align: center;">This is Me  Who Are You  We are Friends  This Is My Family  People Who Teach Us About Keeping  Safe  We Have Feelings  New Life  I Grow  Making  Choices</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Look What I Can Do  These Are My Friends  This Is My Family  I Can Be Safe  Other People Have Feelings Too  Caring For New Life  My Body  I Grow And Change  Making Decisions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">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</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">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</p>

**Appendix 1**

**RSE Themes**  
**(“Resource Materials for Relationships and Sexuality Education” – DES Publication)**

<b>Third Class/Fourth class Year 1</b>	<b>Third Class/Fourth Class Year 2</b>	<b>Fifth Class/Sixth Class Year 1</b>	<b>Fifth/Sixth Class Year 2</b>
<p style="text-align: center;">Special Gifts  Sometimes Friends Fight  My Family  Keeping Safe  Expressing Feelings  Preparing for New Life  Our Senses  As I Grow I Change  Making Decisions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Myself and Others  Bullying Behaviour  My Family  Reasons for Rules  Feelings and Emotions  The Wonder of New Life  Being Clean- Keeping Healthy  Growing and Changing  Problem-Solving</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Person I Am  Different Kinds of Friends  My Family  Keeping Safe  Feelings and Emotions  My Body Grows and Changes  The Wonder of New Life  Caring for New Life  Making Healthy Decisions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">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</p>