



Uimhir rolla: 20082Q

Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg

Bóthar Rúisc

Dún Búinne

Co na Mí

Príomhoide: Seán O'Laimhín

Leas-príomhoide: Mairín Ní Chonaire

Policy statement on Relationship Sexuality Education programme for Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg.

Our school philosophy:

Children at this school are educated through the medium of the Irish language. We hope this promotion of the Irish culture; will lead to improved self-confidence, self-identity and self-esteem.

Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg is an Interdenominational school which will function under a joint Catholic/Protestant spirit /ethos acknowledging the unique contribution of both traditions and their denominational expressions in Irish life.

The mission of our school is to enable each pupil to achieve their full potential, physically, academically, emotionally, culturally and spiritually in a happy and safe environment, where everyone can feel a sense of belonging, security and esteem and where human dignity and freedom are recognized and respected.

We as a school acknowledge and support the role of parents, pupils, staff, Board of Management, Churches and visitors, in our endeavors.

Definition of R.S.E:

R.S.E aims to help children learn at home and in school, about their own development and about their friendships and relationships with others. This work will be based on developing a good self-image, promoting respect for themselves and others and providing them with the appropriate information.

R.S.E. 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. It is a life long process which involves acquiring knowledge and understanding, alongside development attitudes, beliefs and values about sexual identity, relationships and intimacy.

Relationships of R.S.E to SPHE..

In the school setting R.S.E will be a part of a wider programme, of Social, Personal and Health Education. (S.P.H.E)

S.P.H.E contributes to developing the work of the school in promoting the health and well being of children and young people. This happens in the context of their emotional, moral, social and spiritual growth as well as their intellectual, physical, political and religious and creative development.

The content of the school's S.P.H.E. programme will include a wide range of topics such as healthy eating, alcohol, drugs, environmental issues, safety and social responsibility as well as R.S.E.

What the school currently provides:

At present, aspects of the S.P.H.E / R.S.E. programme, are dealt with formally in the Stay Safe Programme, Religious Education, Social and Environmental studies, Physical education programmes, Health education programmes.

Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg endeavours at all times to ensure that self-esteem and self confidence are fostered. In the school pupils are exposed to as wide a curriculum as possible, providing opportunities for each child to be successful and to earn the respect and admiration of his/her peers through e.g participation at P.E. activities, music classes, the school council, school weekly award meetings, fortnightly library visits, supervised breaktime activities organised by senior classes, swimming, art competitions, concerts and services. Pupils are given the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of after school activities ie; speech and drama, tin whistle, football, French classes, Irish dancing lessons,etc.

The children will also meet regularly with people bringing activities to the school . These are some of the outside involvements that took place in the school this year: Art exhibition of their own work, farm bus, science bus, Graffiti Classic's string quartet, drama group, coca cola factory, school tours, cycling safety training.....etc.

During the year children are made aware of those less fortunate than them or those with special needs.

Children with special needs, receive extra help if required. Special needs resource teachers , in co-operation with class teachers can provide this extra help. The school will liaise with the N.E.H.B and arrange for assessments and counselling for children experiencing academic, emotional or behavioural problems.

Sensitivity to the rights and feelings of others is fostered at all times. The junior infants activity groups, the religious programmes activity groups, circle time and project work in the senior classes create opportunities for pupils to share and co-operate with each other and with adults from the wider community.

Aims of the R.S.E Programme.

- 1) To enhance the personal development, self esteem and well being of the child.
- 2) To help the child develop healthy friendships and relationships.

3) To foster an understanding of , and a healthy attitude to human sexuality in a moral, spiritual and social framework.

4) To enable the child to acquire an understanding of and respect for human love, sexual intercourse and reproduction.

5) To develop and promote in the child a sense of wonder and awe of the process of birth and new life.

6) To enable the child to be comfortable with the sexuality of him/her self while growing and developing.

7) To enhance the capacity of the child to resist sexual exploitation and abuse.

Guidelines for the Management and organization of R.S.E in our school.

Our R.S.E. programme will be taught throughout the eight year school cycle. However many aspects and aims of our R.S.E programme will be taught or reinforced by the general atmosphere and everyday interactions of the classroom and school.

Gaelscoil Thulach na nÓg, recognizes, the importance of interlinking the atmosphere between the school and the classroom. Central to the success of our R.S.E programme will be the development and maintenance of and supportive environment in both the school and the home, combined with the co-operation and positive approach of parents and teachers.

It is important that both girls and boys are aware of, understand and appreciate all the aspects of growth and development of both females and males. An effective R.S.E programme will promote, cultivate mutual respect between boys and girls, combined with a sensitivity to the changes they experience as they grow older.

Central to the R.S.E programme, will be the promotion of gender equality where children will examine the roles of females and males, they will become aware of sex stereotyping and explore the principles of gender equity

Having examined and approved the NCCA curriculum and guidelines, we acknowledge the right of parents to withdraw their children from specific lessons dealing with sensitive issues. Pupil's privacy will be respected at all times.

R.S.E will be provided throughout primary school from infants to 6th class. In Infants the children will be taught the proper names for the parts of the body. In First and Second Class the children will be taught about growth of the body, care of the body and respect for males/ females. In Third and Fourth class the

children will be taught about body changes and the onset of puberty. In Fifth and Sixth class they will be taught about reproduction and in sixth class about sexual intercourse in a loving relationship.

R.S.E. programme will be intertwined with all aspects of school life during the child's eight year cycle in the Gaelscoil.

Methodology:

The teaching methods of R.S.E will be child centered and appropriate of the age and stage of development of the pupil. In organizing the learning environment the teacher will be careful to create an atmosphere in the classroom which respects the privacy of each individual student and which treats all students with due sensitivity and care.

Recognizing, that there are individual differences in maturity within a class, the following strategy will be used in dealing with questions which the teacher is not prepared to answer aloud in class.

- 1 The teacher will explain, that the amount of information given, is part of that year's programme and that more information will be given as part of the following year's programme.
- 2 If the question, is factual and within the programme as agreed on for that age group, the teacher will answer it.
- 3 If it is felt that a question is genuine, the teacher may advise the child to ask at home or may ask her/his permission to contact his/hers parents/guardians. In order that they may deal with it.

Suggested teaching approaches.

The approaches suggested for teaching depending on the age of the children include:

1. Stories and poems.
2. Classroom Discussion.
3. Group work.
4. Games.
5. Art activities.
6. Quiet time.
7. A Visitor to the classroom.
8. A Video.
9. Educational Drama.
10. Class round.
11. Debate.

R.S.E materials.

The department of education and Science supported the development of teaching materials for use by teachers in the delivery of R.S.E in the classroom. The teaching materials acknowledge parents/guardians as the primary educators of their children and provide assistance to teachers in their complementary and supportive role. Parents / guardians are welcome to look at the classroom materials and can contact the school principal to do this.

There are Home-School Links pages for each topic and the pages provide you with some material from the classroom lessons. These are **not** homework worksheets to be returned to school. They are intended to give you an insight into some of the work being done in school, and support you in your work with your child at home. When you know what your child is learning through RSE in school, you will be able to use day to day opportunities to discuss the same issues as they arise at home.

The following suggestions may help parents / guardians.

The Department of Education and Science circulated a parent booklet on RSE called 'Going Forward Together'. This booklet provides information on RSE and answers many questions that parents / guardians frequently ask about the programme. Copies of the parent booklet are enclosed.

Listening to children and hearing about what is going on in their lives is rewarding for both parents and children. Bedtime, evenings or weekends are often times when both parent and child are relaxed. Time spent travelling or working together around the home also provides an opportunity for the parent / guardian and child to talk to each other and build good communication.

All children have their own special and unique story, whether they live in a conventional family group, with their lone parent or in other family units. Children need to know about and celebrate their own story and uniqueness. Parents/guardians can create opportunities from an early age to do this.

As children reach fifth or sixth class, parents will have developed ways of communicating with them that may not have been possible when they were younger. As children approach adolescence, they are interested in all aspects of growing up. Sometimes parents can find it difficult to talk about issues relating to puberty. A T.V programme or advertisement may be a useful starting point for discussion.

Provision for ongoing support, development and review.

The school will ensure the provision of the most suitable resources necessary to implement the programme. The school is committed to ensuring access to career development opportunities for teachers in relation to R.S.E and to supporting those parents involved at Board and Policy committee level. This policy will be reviewed and evaluated on an annual basis.

Siniú Chathaoirleach an Bhoird: _____

Dáta:

FOCLÓIR OIDEACHAS CAIDRIMH & GNÉASACHTA

RELATIONSHIPS & SEXUALITY VOCABULARY

Naíonáin

- | | |
|-----------|------|
| 1. Rugadh | Born |
| 2. Broinn | Womb |

Rang 1 agus Rang 2

- | | |
|------------|--------|
| 1. Faighin | Vagina |
| 2. Anas | Anus |
| 3. Péineas | Penis |

Rang 3 agus Rang 4

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Toircheas | Pregnancy |
| 2. Sreang imleacán | Umbilical cord |
| 3. Imleacán | Belly button |

Rang 5 agus Rang 6

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Ubhagán | Ovary |
| 2. Feadán fallópach | Fallopian tubes |
| 3. Útaras | Uterus |
| 4. Muinéal | neck/uterus |
| 5. Uirí | Testes |
| 6. Cadairne | Scrotum |
| 7. Speirm | Sperm |
| 8. Éirí | Erection |
| 9. Brionglóidí fliuch | Wet dreams |