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Further Education Centre
The Neale Road
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RSE Policy

Definition of Relationships and Sexuality Education

RSE is a developmental process through experiential learning in which pupils participate to help cultivate a healthy attitude towards themselves and others, particularly in the area of sexuality and relationships.

Relationships and Sexuality Education within Social Personal and Health Education

The *Draft Guidelines for RSE* (NCCA, June 1995, 1.2) state that Social Personal and Health Education is “spiral, developmental in nature and age appropriate in content and methodology”. The RSE programme is designed to follow this principle and pattern. Apart from the specific lessons of RSE, SPHE covers other areas which would be pertinent to the development of a healthy attitude to sexuality in oneself and one’s relationship with others. SPHE deals with many issues such as self-esteem, assertiveness, communication and decision making skills - all of which can contribute to the effectiveness of the RSE programme.

The aims of our Relationships and Sexuality Education programme

Relationships and sexuality education which is located in the overall framework of Social, Personal and Health Education, has as its specific aims:

- a) To help pupils understand and develop friendships and relationships
- b) To promote an understanding of sexuality
- c) To promote a positive attitude to one’s own sexuality and in one’s relationship with others
- d) To promote knowledge of and respect for reproduction
- e) To enable pupils to develop attitudes and values toward their sexuality in a moral, spiritual and social framework in keeping with the policy of the school
- f) To provide opportunities for pupils to learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help them think and act in a moral, caring and responsible way.



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It is acknowledged that in a course of limited duration these aims are aspirational.

Guidelines for the management and organisation of Relationships and Sexuality Education in our school

Arrangements regarding the teaching of the programme and the deployment of staff will be made by the co-ordinator.

Policies which support RSE:

Child protection policy
Code of conduct/Mission statement
Anti-bullying policy
Internet usage policy

Parental involvement

Parents are welcome to view the SPHE syllabus if they wish.

The Centre acknowledges that parents have the primary responsibility for educating their children in sexual matters. The centre RSE programme acts as a support to parents, and parents retain the right to withdraw their children from classes. This must be done in writing to the centre co-ordinator or SPHE co-ordinator.

Where this occurs, it is the responsibility of the centre to accommodate the children in another class for the duration of the lesson.

Resources

The school will purchase appropriate RSE teaching materials which have been identified by staff as useful and which have been approved by the co-ordinator, within the normal budgetary framework.

This policy has been developed in line with circular 27/2008

