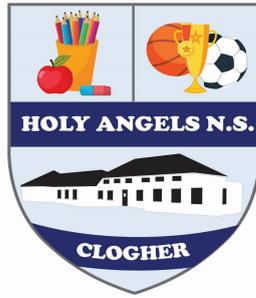


Holy Angels National School

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Relationships and Sexual Education Policy (RSE)

Introductory Statement

This RSE policy was reviewed by staff at a staff meeting in September 2019 and ratified by the Board of Management on 7th October 2019.

Rationale

The need for this policy arose from our schools obligation to provide for all the needs of the student body and respond appropriately to sensitive and emotive issues relating to emerging sexuality.

Definition

Relationships and sexuality education (RSE) encompasses the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the development of attitudes, beliefs and values about relationships, sexual identity and intimacy.

Context

All of the RSE will be delivered within the context of SPHE, which is part of the curriculum. Sensitive (sexual) issues will be covered within the Strand Units ' Taking care of my Body', 'Growing and Changing', and 'Safety and Protection'.

Aims

- ✓ *To enhance the personal development, well being and self-esteem of each child.*
- ✓ *To enable each child to gain an understanding of and respect for human love, reproduction and sexual activity in a sensitive and measured way.*
- ✓ *To enable the child develop healthy friendships and relationships.*
- ✓ *To develop and promote in the child a sense of wonder and awe at the process of birth and new life*
- ✓ *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 be comfortable with his/her own sexuality and the sexuality of others while growing and developing.*

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School Provision & Strand Units

Myself: Self-identity, taking care of my body, growing and changing, safety and protection.

Myself and Others: Myself and family, friends and relating to other people.

Taking Care of My Body: Naming parts of the male and female body using appropriate terminology. Identifying physical changes. Understanding puberty and the Reproductive System (5th & 6th Classes)

Growing and Changing: The stages of development of a baby from conception to birth (Senior classroom). Understanding sexual relations within the context of a committed loving relationship (5th & 6th Classes).

Management and Organisation

- Parents are acknowledged as primary educators of their children and the school will work in a supportive role.
- The curriculum is spiral in nature and all content objectives will be covered by the time the children leave 6th class.
- Teachers' rights to opt out from teaching the sensitive sexual issues will be respected.
- A parent's right to withdraw a pupil from the process will be respected on the understanding that the parents are taking full responsibility for this aspect of education themselves. It is the responsibility of the parents to inform the school of this decision.

Topics covered up to 2nd class include:

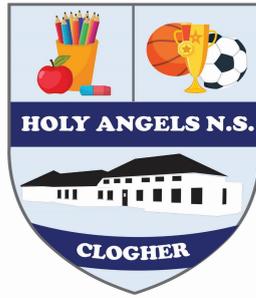
- ✓ *Keeping safe.*
- ✓ *Naming bodily parts.*
- ✓ *Bodily changes during growth and development.*
- ✓ *Making and keeping friends.*
- ✓ *Making age appropriate choices.*
- ✓ *Appreciating family life.*
- ✓ *Recognizing and expressing feelings.*
- ✓ *Self care, hygiene, diet, exercise and sleep (link with P.E. Healthy Eating Policy and S.P.H.E.)*
- ✓ *Expressing opinions and listening to others.*

Topics covered from 3rd to 6th Classes include:

- ✓ *Bodily changes.*
- ✓ *Healthy eating, personal hygiene, exercise.*
- ✓ *Keeping safe.*
- ✓ *Expressing feelings.*

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- ✓ Family relationships.
- ✓ Making healthy and responsible decisions.
- ✓ Forming friendships.
- ✓ Reproduction, conception (5th and 6th Classes)

Resources:

In implementing the RSE Programme in the school the teachers will avail of Making the Links and the Busy Bodies Programme from the HSE.

Child Protection

The school follows the D.E.S. child protection guidelines in accordance with the Children's First Act 2015 and the Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools 2017 with the Principal as Designated Liaison Person. In cases of disclosure; the D.L.P. will follow the necessary procedures.

Evaluation

- ✓ Teacher observation.
- ✓ Ensuring all strands are covered.
- ✓ Teacher designed tasks and tests and self-evaluation.
- ✓ Parent and Child feedback.

Roles and Responsibilities

The whole school community of B.O.M., staff, pupils and parents play a key role in the formulation and implementation of the plan.

Ratification and Review:

This policy was ratified by the BoM on 7th October 2019 and will be reviewed again in October 2022.

Signed:

Chairperson BOM

Principal/Secretary BOM

Date