Polasaí Oideachas Caidrimh agus Gnéasachta(OCG)

Relationship & Sexuality Policy (RSE)

Ráiteas Misin

Is scoil chomhoideachasúil, Ghaeltachta, Chaitliceach, í Scoil na bhForbacha, H91RR60. Tá sé mar aidhm againn an páiste a chothú sna gnéithe uile dá s(h)aol – na gnéithe spioradálta, morálta, cognaíocha, mothúchánacha, samhlaíocha, aeistéitiúla, sóisialta, fisiceacha agus cultúrtha. Beag beann ar ábaltacht, gnéas, aois nó cúlra teangeolaíoch, tá béim ar chothromaíocht de gach gasúr.

Is scoil Ghaeltachta í Scoil na bhForbacha. Is í an Ghaeilge teanga na scoile. Déanfar chuile iarracht bród agus mórtas as seoda na hÉireann - an teanga Ghaeilge agus an cultúr Gaelach a chothú sna páistí.

Déanfar chuile iarracht forbairt ghairmiúil na foirne mar aonad a chur chun cinn le cláracha forbartha foirne sa scoil. Tacóidh Scoil na bhForbacha, go fonnmhar le tuismitheoirí trí theagmháil idir an scoil agus an baile agus trí ghníomhaíocht le Coiste na dTuismitheoirí.

Is scoil pobail í Scoil na bhForbacha agus mianta an phobail mar shlat tomais i gcónaí againn agus muid ag múnlú an chéad ghlúin eile. Déanfaidh Scoil na bhForbacha iarracht féinmheas chuile dhuine atá i bpobal na scoile a chothú. Spreagfar na páistí le meas a bheith acu ar chuile dhuine, ar a maoin agus ar a sealúchas agus cothófar féin fhreagracht sna páistí

Cothóidh Scoil na bhForbacha, comhionannas gnéis i measc na foirne agus imeasc páistí na scoile.

Réamhrá:

Cuireadh dréacht garbh le chéile agus cuireadh é seo faoi bhráid choiste leis an polasaí a phlé go mion agus le éisteacht le tuairimí & moltaí agus le athrúintí agus leasaithe a chur i bhfeidhm dá réir. Ar an gcoiste seo bhí baill den fhoireann teagaisc, baill den Bhord Bainistíochta agus baill de phobal tuismitheoirí na scoile.

Réasúnaíocht:

Tá an t-Oideachas Caidrimh agus Gnéasachta (OCG) mar chuid den Oideachas SóisialtaPearsanta Sláinte.

Sí an aidhm atá againn sa bpolasaí OCG ná go dtabharfar deiseanna struchtúrtha do ghasúirleis an t-eolas, an dearcadh, na luachanna, an creideamh agus na scileanna praiticiúla a fhorbairt atá riachtanach le caidreamh pearsanta sláintiúil mar ghasúir agus ina dhiaidh sinmar dhaoine fásta a bhunú agus a chothú.

Féachann an clár OCG le deiseanna a thabhairt do ghasúir eolas agus tuiscint a fháil ar chaidreamh agus ar ghnéasacht an duine trí phróisis a chuirfeas ar a gcumas luachanna agusiompar a bhunú taobh istigh de chreat morálta, spioradálta agus sóisialta. Glactar leis gurb iad na tuismitheoirí príomh-oideachasóirí na gasúir. Tá freagracht ar an bhfoireann teagaisc, ar thuismitheoirí, ar Bhord Bainistíochta na scoile, ar an Roinn Oideachais & Eolaíochta do chur i bhfeidhm an pholasaí seo.

An gaol le spiorad sainiúil na scoile:

I Scoil na bhForbacha aithníonn muid féiniúlacht gach gasúir.

- ✓ Cuireann muid romhainn sonas an ghasúir a chothú i dtimpeallacht chuí
- ✓ Cuireann muid romhainn oideachas d'ard-chaighdeán a chur ar fáil leis na gasúir aréiteach don saol atá rompu.
- ✓ Cuireann muid romhainn forbairt a dhéanamh ar neamhspleáchas, féinmheas,féinmhuinín, cairdeas, comhoibriú, cneastacht agus dílseacht.
- ✓ Tá Scoil na bhForbacha faoi Phátrúnacht Deoise na Gaillimhe.

Aidhmeanna:

- Tacaíocht a thabhairt do thuismitheoirí ina ról mar bhunoideachasóirí ag cothúforbairt phearsanta a gcuid gasúir.
- Cur le féinmheas, féinmhuinín agus sláinte na ngasúir
- Cabhrú leis na gasúir cairdeas agus caidreamh folláin a fhorbairt
- Forbairt a dhéanamh ar scileanna cumarsáide na ngasúir
- Atmaisféar ómósach a chothú ina n-éascófar plé feiliúnach i leith chuile ghné denchlár
- Clár OCG a sheoladh a bhéas ag teacht le spiorad sainiúil na scoile
- Tábhacht an ghrá agus ómós don cholainn, do chairde, do thuismitheoirí agus dodhaoine eile a threisiú
- Tuiscint agus dearcadh folláin a chothú faoi ghnéasacht & caidreamh an duine taobhistigh de chreat morálta, spioradálta agus sóisialta
- A chur ar chumas na ngasúir a bheith compordach lena ngnéasacht féin agus legnéasacht daoine eile chúns atá siad ag fás agus ag forbairt
- Go mbeidh meas ag na gasúir ar shaol agus ar luachanna a gclann agus go n-aithneoidhsiad go bhfuil gach clann difriúil i súile Dé agus go mbeidh meas acu orthu dá réir
- Mothú iontais agus ómóis a fhorbairt agus a chothú sna gasúir i leith an phróisis abhaineanns le breith, beatha nua (agus atáirgeadh – Rang a 6).

Ábhar na gceachtanna:

Tabharfar faoin gclár OCG **sa dara téarma** den scoil-bhliain i mbliain 2 den timthriall.

Ag tabhairt aire do mo chorp:

- Ba cheart go mbeadh gasúir as Rang na Naíonáin Mhóra go Rang a 2 in ann baill phríobháideacha den chorp fireann agus baineann a ainmniú agus a

aithint ag úsáidtéarmaíocht cheart.

- Ba cheart go mbeadh gasúir as Rang a 6 in ann labhairt faoi na hathrúintí a thagann ar chailíní agus ar bhuachaillí le linn caithreachais (puberty). Ba cheart go mbeidís inann baill ghiniúna an fhir agus na mná a ainmniú, a aithint agus a thuiscint.

Ag fás agus ag athrú:

- Ba cheart go mbeadh na gasúir as Rang a 3 – 4 in ann labhairt faoi iontas na beatha nua agus na staideanna éagsúla ón uair a ghintear páiste go dtí go dtagann sé/sí ar ansaol.
- Ba cheart go mbeadh na gasúir as Rang a 5 – 6 in ann tuiscint a bheith acu archollaíocht agus breith i gcomhthéacs caidrimh buan grámhar.

Thríd an gclár OCG beidh tuiscint faighte ag na gasúir ar an gcaithreachas agus ar an síolrúdaonna sul má fhágann siad an bhunscoil.
Trí eolas a fháil ar na hathrúintí seo is féidir leis na gasúir an teanga agus an stór focal a shealbhú lena bhfás agus lena bhforbairt féin a phlé agus ina theannta sin beidh siad in annceisteanna feiliúnacha a chur agus eolas a bheadh uathu a mhíniú agus a fháil.

<u>Ábhar an pholasaí:</u>

1. *Cearta Tuismitheoirí*

   Má tá tuismitheoirí ann nach bhfuil ag iarraidh go mbeadh a gcuidgasúir páirteach sa gcuid seo den OSPS beidh orthu labhairt le Príomhoide na scoile.

Cuirfear tuismitheoirí ar an eolas faoin gclár OCG trí téacs a sheoladh abhaile.
Beidh nasc scoile/baile (bileoga oibre) a thabharfas deis do thuismitheoirí labhairt lena gcuid gasúir faoin obair atá ar siúl sa rang.

2. *Aibíocht éagsúil*

   Beidh bealach réidh cúramach ag múinteoirí ag déileáil le ceisteanna. Beidh bealach oscailte acu atá feiliúnach d'aois na ngasúir. Molfar do ghasúir ceisteannapearsanta atá taobh amuigh de chlár don aoisghrúpa sin a phlé lena dtuismitheoirí ag baile. Freagróidh an múinteoir ceisteanna atá taobh istigh de chlár an ranga sin amháin. Má chuirtear ceist íogarach sa rang ní fhreagrófar an cheist ach sa gcás go n-airíonn an múinteoir go bhfuil an rang sách aibí nó "réidh" don fhreagra.
   Sa gcás go gceaptar nach bhfuil an rang réidh, déarfar leis an ngasúr a chur an cheist í a iafraí sa mbaile.

3. *Treoirlínte:*

   - Aithníonn muid gur i gcomhpháirtíocht leis na tuismitheoirí atá an clár seo á fhorbairt
   - Aithníonn muid go bhfuil an phríomhfhreagracht agus dualgas OCG a chur ar a gcuid gasúir ar na tuismitheoirí féin
   - Sí cuspóir na scoile ná comhoibriú agus tacú le tuismitheoirí san obair thábhachtach seo
   - Cuirfear bileoga oibre (nasc scoile-baile) abhaile roimh nó tar éis ceachtanna agbraith ar dhiscréid an mhúinteora
   - Beidh chuile chead ag tuismitheoir coinne a dhéanamh le breathnú ar an gclár OCGmás mian leo.
   - Aithnítear saoirse na múinteoirí faoi réir spiorad sainiúil na scoile a

mbreithiúnas féin a úsáid agus iad i mbun ceachta. Siad na múinteoirí is fearr a dhéanfas breithmheas ar thuiscint na ngasúir agus ar an eolas atá ag teastáil agus feiliúnachdo rang mar aonad iomlán.

- Ní gá gurb é an múinteoir ranga a mhúinfeadh chuile ghné den chlár.
- Ba chóir do thuismitheoirí na téarmaí cearta ar bhaill agus ar fheidhmeanna an choirp a úsáid ó aois an-óg i dtreo is go nglacfar leis na téarmaí seo agus go mbeidhstádas ag baint leo. Dá réir sin ní bheidh gasúir ag baint an oiread mí-úsáide as leaganacha gáirsiúla nó mí-chuí ina gcuid cainte nuair atáfar ág plé na gcúrsaí sin.

4. *Bunrialacha:*
   - Bainfear úsáid as téarmaíocht chuí sa rang i gcónaí.
   - Ní mór géilleadh i gcónaí do cheart an ghasúir ar phríobháideachas. (Tá an ceart céanna ag an múinteoir.)
     Níor cheart go n-aireodh aon duine aon bhrú eolas a thabhairt faoina s(h)aolpearsanta fhéin.
   - Ní fhreagrófar ceisteanna pearsanta
   - Freagrófar ceisteanna feiliúnacha bunaithe ar fhíricí.
   - Freagrófar ceisteanna morálta de réir theagasc na hEaglaise Caitlicí.
   - Cuirfear in iúl do pháistí ceisteanna a chur sa mbaile mar a bhfuil siad ag dul lecuraclam agus más ceisteanna morálta iad.

5. *Nochtadh:* Sa gcás go nochtann gasúr don mhúinteoir gur tharla mí-úsáid dó/di tá sé rí-thábhachtach go leanfaí na céimeanna seo a leanas:
   (a) Ní thabharfaidh an múinteoir geallúint go mbeidh an t-eolas faoi rún
   (b) Gabhfaidh an múinteoir chuig an "Duine caidreamh Ainmnithe" (An Príomhoide)
   (c) Déanfaidh an Príomhoide teagmháil leis na Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus sin iad a dhéanfasdéileáil leis an scéal as sin amach.

<u>Na Modhanna Múinte</u>

I measc na modhanna molta múinteoireachta tá:

1. Scéalta agus dánta
2. Plé sa seomra ranga
3. Grúpobair
4. Cluichí
5. Gníomhaíochtaí Ealaíne
6. Am ciúin
7. Ciorcal Cómhrá
8. Cuairteoir ar an seomra ranga
9. Físeán
10. Drámaíocht Oideachais
11. Díospóireacht

(Féach ar lth 16- 21 sa leabhar Oideachas Caidrimh agus Gnéasachta)

<u>Critéir Rathúlachta:</u>

Tiocfaidh an polasaí seo chun leasa don teagasc agus don fhoghlaim sa scoil.Déanfar measúnú ar éifeacht nó ar dhul chun cinn an pholasaí trí:

- Breathnóireacht an mhúinteora
- Trialacha a dhearann an múinteoir
- Aiseolas ón bhfoireann teagaisc
- Aiseolas ó dhaltaí
- Aiseolas ó thuismitheoirí

Nuair a bhéas an polasaí i bhfeidhm go héifeachtach beidh sé le tabhairt faoi deara:

- Go bhfuil pobal na scoile (tuismitheoirí/múinteoirí/gasúir) sásta agus compordachleis an gclár
- Go bhfuil meas ag na gasúir orthu féin agus ar dhaoine eile
- Go bhfuil féin-mhuinín agus féin-íomhá maith dearfach ag na gasúir
- Go bhfuil caidreamh & cairdeas folláín á fhorbairt
- Go bhfuil sé níos éasca plé oscailte, ómósach a bheith ar bun sa seomra ranga
- Go bhfuil tuiscint & dearcadh folláin ann faoi ghnéasacht agus caidreamh
- Go bhfuil ómós agus tuiscint níos fearr ag na gasúir ar a gcolainn agus ar an bhfás, an fhorbairt agus na hathrúintí a tharlaíonn de réir mar atá siad ag dul in aois.

<u>Rólanna & Freagracht</u>

Is ar na tuismitheoirí atá an phríomhfhreagracht agus dualgas OCG a chur ar a gcuid gasúir.Sé ról na dtuismitheoirí tacú leis na múinteoirí i gcur i bhfeidhm an pholasaí ó lá go lá.

Sé ról an Choiste Polasaí OCG ná an polasaí OCG a phlé go mion agus é a fhorbairt. Tá rólacu freisin athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an bpolasaí OCG agus cur leis agus leasaithe a dhéanamh más gá.

Sé ról na múinteoirí tacú agus comhoibriú leis na tuismitheoirí san obair thábhachtach seotrí chlár OCG a chur i bhfeidhm tríd an scoil.

Sé ról an phríomhoide ná:

(a) Tuismitheoirí a chur ar an eolas faoin bpolasaí agus faoin gclár OCG.
(b) Treoir a thabhairt más gá.
(c) Féachaint chuige go bhfuil an polasaí OCG á chur i bhfeidhm go leanúnach tríd anscoil.

Sé ról an Bhord Bhainistíochta a chinntiú go bhfuil clár OCG á chur i bhfeidhm atá ag teachtle spiorad sainiúil na scoile.

Céisteanna coitianta

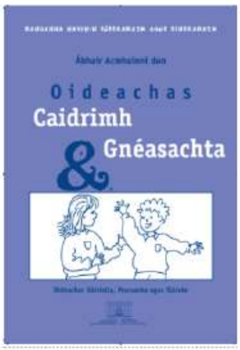
An gcaithfidh gach páiste páirt a ghlacadh in OCG?

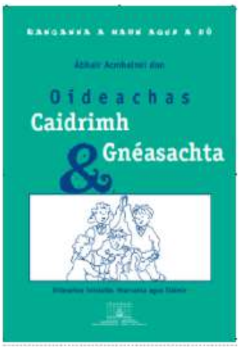
Tá sé ríthábhachtach go nglacfaidh gach páiste páirt i ranganna OSPS. Áfach, mar gurbh iad na tuistí príomh-oideasóirí na bpáistí tá cead acu a bpáistí a tharraingt as na ceachtanna OCG. Comhairlíonn an Roinn do na tuistí sin na topaicí céanna a phlé lena gcuid páistí sa mbaile mar go bhfuil sean maith go mbeidh sé mar ábhar cainte ag na páistí eile amuigh sa gclós. Caithfidh na tuistí sin é a chur i scíbhinn don scoil nach bhfuil siad ag iarraidh go nglacfaidh a bpáiste páirt ins na ranganna OCG. Caithfidh na tuistí socrú a dhéanamh maoirseacht a eagrú don páiste mar nach mbeidh an scoil in ann é sin a dhéánamh.

Cén bealach a fhreagraítear ceisteanna íogaireacha?

Tá na ceachtanna sa gclár OCG aois-feiliúnach. Má chuireann páiste ceist ar mhúinteoir faoi rud nach bhfuil clúdaithe don aois-ghrúpa sin, freagraítear an páiste mar seo, 'Tá a fhios agam an freagra don cheist sin ach is ceist í gur chóir duit a chur ar do thuismitheoir'. Smaoinítear i gcónaí agus an múinteoir i mbun ceachta ar charachtair na scoile, ar an bpolasaí OCG agus ar aois na bpáistí. Sa gcaoi sin is féidir a bheith cinnte go bhfuiltear ag obair i bpáirtnéireacht leis na tuismitheoirí mar oideachasóirí.

Má chuireann páiste ceist ar mhúinteoir atá imníoch, leantar an polasaí um chosaint leanaí.


Oideachas
Caidrimh
&
Gnéasachta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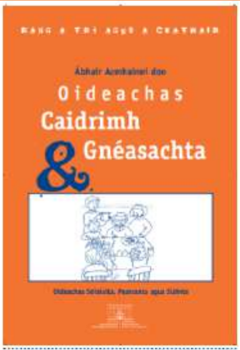
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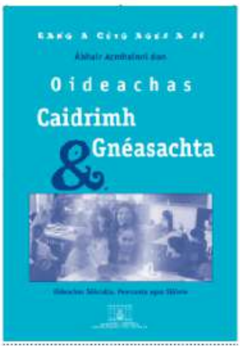
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SPRIOCDHÁTAÍ DON ATHBHREITHNIÚ:
Déanfar athbhreithniú ar an bpolasaí seo go bliantúil.
Déanadh athbhreithniú ar an bpolasaí seo ag cruinniú Bord Bainistíochta roimh deireadh scoilbhliana 2026.

FREAGRACHT AS AN ATHBHREITHNIÚ:
Tá freagracht ar an bhfoireann teagaisc, ar ghasúir, ar thuismitheoirí, Bord Bainistíochta,an cigire agus an Roinn Oideachais & Eolaíochta don athbhreithniú. Tá an príomhoide freagrach as, go ndéanfaí athbhreithniú ar an bpolasaí go bliantúil.

Daingniú & Cumarsáid:
Tá mion-scagadh déanta ag an gCoiste Polasaí OCG ar an bpolasaí agus ta se faofa ag an mBord Bainistíochta. Déanadh athbhreithniú ar an bPolasaí seo ag cruinniú Bord Bainistíochta roimh deireadh scoilbhliana 2026. Beidh an Polasaí OCG ar fáil in oifig na scoile d'aon tuismitheoir ar mhaith leo é a fheiceáil.

An Bord Bainistíochta
Tugann an bord bainistíochta tacaíocht le pé socraithe praiticiúla atá le déanamh chun curaclam Oideachas Sóisialta, Pearsanta agus Sláinte a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm i Scoil na bhForbacha.

Ról an phríomhoide
Beidh an príomhoide agus na múinteoirí i gcomhairle le chéile faoin bplean don don Oideachas Sóisialta,Pearsanta agus Sláinte.

Ról na Múinteoirí
Tá chuile mhúinteoir freagrach as cur i bhfeidhm, forbairt agus tacú leis an bplean seo. Déanfar dul chun cinn, cur i bhfeidhm agus forbairt an phleain seo a phlé ag cruinnithe foirne. Tá chuile mhúinteoir freagrach as tacú, cur i bhfeidhm, monatóireacht, agus measúnú an pholasaí seo.Tá chuile mhúinteoir freagrach as cur lena gcuid Forbairt Gairmiúil Leanúnach pearsanta chun iad a threorú in úsáide an phlean seo.

Ról na dtuismitheoirí
Tá tábhacht thar cuimse ag baint le ról na dtuismitheoirí chun cabhrú le oideachas sóisialta, pearsanta agussláinte. Is féidir leo dearcadh dearfach don don Oideachas Sóisialta, Pearsanta agus Sláinte a chothú sna páistí agus tacaíocht a thabhairt d'obair na scoile agus d'obair an ranga.

Spriocdháta don Athbhreithniú
Déanfar athbhreithniú ar an bplean seo go bliaintúil.

Freagracht don athbhreithniú
Tá freagracht ar an bpríomhoide agus an bhfoireann teagaisc don athbhreithniú.

Daingniú agus Cumarsáid
Glacann Bord Bainistíochta Scoil na bhForbachaleis an bpolasaí OSPS seo. Déanadh athbhreithniú ar an bpolasaí seo ar an 30-05-26.
Tá cóip ar fáil san oifig agus tá cóip curtha ar fáil don fhoireann teagaisc.

Mission Statement

Scoil na bhForbacha, H91RR60, is a co-educational, Gaeltacht, Catholic school. Our aim is to nurture the child in all aspects of their life – the spiritual, moral, cognitive, emotional, imaginative, aesthetic, social, physical and cultural aspects. Regardless of ability, gender, age or linguistic background, emphasis is placed on equality for every child.

Scoil na bhForbacha is a Gaeltacht school. Irish is the language of the school. Every effort will be made to foster pride and honour in the treasures of Ireland – the Irish language and Gaelic culture – in the children.

Every effort will be made to promote the professional development of the staff as a unit through staff development programmes in the school. Scoil na bhForbacha will willingly support parents through communication between the school and the home and through engagement with the Parents' Committee.

Scoil na bhForbacha is a community school and the wishes of the community are always our measure as we shape the next generation. Scoil na bhForbacha will endeavour to foster the self-esteem of every person in the school community. Children will be encouraged to have respect for every person, their property and their belongings, and self-responsibility will be nurtured in the children.

Scoil na bhForbacha will promote gender equality among staff and among the children of the school.

Introduction

A rough draft was compiled and brought before a committee to discuss the policy in detail, to hear opinions and suggestions, and to make amendments and revisions accordingly. This committee included members of the teaching staff, members of the Board of Management, and members of the school's parent community.

Rationale

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) forms part of Social Personal Health Education. The aim of our RSE policy is to provide structured opportunities for children to develop the knowledge, attitudes, values, beliefs and practical skills necessary to form and maintain healthy personal relationships as children and later as adults.

The RSE programme seeks to provide children with opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of human relationships and sexuality through processes that will enable them to establish values and behaviour within a moral, spiritual and social framework. It is accepted that parents are the primary educators of children. The teaching staff, parents, the school's Board of Management, and the Department of Education and Science all share responsibility for the implementation of this policy.

The Relationship with the Distinctive Spirit of the School

In Scoil na bhForbacha we recognise the identity of every child.

- We aim to nurture the happiness of the child in an appropriate environment.
- We aim to provide a high-quality education to prepare the children for the life ahead of them.
- We aim to develop independence, self-esteem, self-confidence, friendship, cooperation, honesty and loyalty.
- Scoil na bhForbacha is under the Patronage of the Diocese of Galway.

Aims

- To support parents in their role as primary educators in fostering the personal development of their children
- To contribute to the self-esteem, self-confidence and health of the children
- To help children develop friendships and healthy relationships
- To develop the communication skills of the children
- To foster a respectful atmosphere in which appropriate discussion of every aspect of the programme is facilitated
- To deliver an RSE programme that is in keeping with the distinctive spirit of the school
- To reinforce the importance of love and respect for the body, for friends, for parents and for others
- To foster a healthy understanding and attitude towards human sexuality and relationships within a moral, spiritual and social framework
- To enable children to be comfortable with their own sexuality and the sexuality of others as they grow and develop
- That children will have respect for the life and values of their family and will recognise that every family is different in the eyes of God and will respect them accordingly
- To develop and nurture in children a sense of wonder and reverence in relation to the process associated with birth, new life (and reproduction – 6th Class)

Lesson Content:

The RSE programme will be undertaken in the second term of the school year in year 2 of the cycle.

Taking Care of My Body:

- Children from Senior Infants to 2nd Class should be able to name and identify the private parts of the male and female body using correct terminology.
- Children from 6th Class should be able to talk about the changes that occur in girls and boys during puberty. They should be able to name, identify and understand the reproductive organs of the male and female.

Growing and Changing:

- Children from 3rd – 4th Class should be able to talk about the wonder of new life and the various stages from the time a child is conceived until he/she comes into the world.
- Children from 5th – 6th Class should be able to have an understanding of sexuality and birth in the context of a lasting, loving relationship.

Through the RSE programme, children will have gained an understanding of puberty and human reproduction before they leave primary school. By learning about these changes, children can acquire the language and vocabulary to discuss their own growth and development, and in addition they will be able to ask appropriate questions and explain and obtain information they may need.

Policy Content:

1. Parents' Rights

If there are parents who do not wish their children to participate in this part of SPHE, they will need to speak with the school Principal.

Parents will be informed about the RSE programme by sending a text home. There will be a school/home link (worksheets) that will give parents the opportunity to talk to their children about the work being done in class.

2. Varying Maturity

Teachers will take a careful, measured approach when dealing with questions. They will have an open approach that is appropriate to the age of the children. Children will be advised to discuss personal questions that are outside the programme for that age group with their parents at home. The teacher will only answer questions that fall within that class's programme. If a sensitive question is asked in class, it will only be answered in the event that the teacher feels the class is sufficiently mature or "ready" for the answer. In the case where it is felt the class is not ready, the child who asked the question will be told to ask it at home.

1. Guidelines:

- We recognise that this programme is being developed in partnership with parents
- We recognise that the primary responsibility and duty of delivering RSE to their children rests with the parents themselves
- The school's aim is to cooperate with and support parents in this important work
- Worksheets (school-home link) will be sent home before or after lessons at the teacher's discretion
- Parents are fully entitled to make an appointment to view the RSE programme if they wish

- Teachers' freedom is recognised, subject to the distinctive spirit of the school, to use their own judgement while conducting a lesson. Teachers are best placed to assess children's understanding and the knowledge that is needed and appropriate for a class as a complete unit
- It is not necessary for the class teacher to teach every aspect of the programme
- Parents should use the correct terms for body parts and functions from a very young age so that these terms are accepted and carry proper status. Consequently, children will be less inclined to use crude or inappropriate versions of these terms in their speech when discussing such matters

2. Ground Rules:

- Appropriate terminology will always be used in class
- The child's right to privacy must always be respected (the teacher has the same right). No one should feel any pressure to give information about their own personal life
- Personal questions will not be answered
- Appropriate questions based on facts will be answered
- Moral questions will be answered in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church
- Children will be directed to ask questions at home where they go beyond the curriculum or where they are of a moral nature

3. Disclosure:

In the event that a child discloses to the teacher that abuse has occurred, it is vitally important that the following steps are followed:

(a) The teacher will not promise that the information will be kept confidential (b) The teacher will go to the "Designated Liaison Person" (the Principal) (c) The Principal will contact the Social Services and they will deal with the matter from that point on

Teaching Methods

Among the recommended teaching methods are:

1. Stories and poems
2. Classroom discussion
3. Group work
4. Games
5. Art activities
6. Quiet time
7. Circle time
8. Classroom visitor
9. Video
10. Educational drama
11. Debate

(See pages 16–21 in the Relationships and Sexuality Education book)

Success Criteria:

This policy will benefit teaching and learning in the school. The effectiveness or progress of the policy will be assessed through:

- Teacher observation
- Teacher-designed tests
- Feedback from the teaching staff
- Feedback from pupils
- Feedback from parents

When the policy is being implemented effectively, it will be observed that:

- The school community (parents/teachers/children) is satisfied and comfortable with the programme
- Children have respect for themselves and for others
- Children have self-confidence and a good, positive self-image
- Healthy relationships and friendships are being developed
- Open, respectful discussion in the classroom is easier to conduct
- There is a healthy understanding and attitude towards sexuality and relationships
- Children have greater respect and understanding for their bodies and for the growth, development and changes that occur as they get older

REVIEW TARGET DATES:

- This policy will be reviewed annually. This policy was reviewed at a Board of Management meeting before the end of the 2026 school year.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REVIEW:

- The teaching staff, children, parents, Board of Management, the inspector and the Department of Education and Science all share responsibility for the review. The principal is responsible for ensuring that the policy is reviewed annually.

Ratification & Communication:

- The RSE Policy Committee has scrutinised the policy in detail and it has been approved by the Board of Management. This policy was reviewed at a Board of Management meeting before the end of the 2026 school year. The RSE Policy will be available in the school office for any parent who wishes to view it.

The Board of Management

- The Board of Management supports whatever practical arrangements are to be made in order to develop and implement the Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum in Scoil na bhForbacha.

Role of the Principal

- The principal and teachers will consult with one another regarding the plan for Social, Personal and Health Education.

Role of Teachers

- Every teacher is responsible for the implementation, development and support of this plan. The progress, implementation and development of this plan will be discussed at staff meetings. Every teacher is responsible for supporting, implementing, monitoring and evaluating this policy. Every teacher is responsible for contributing to their own personal Continuing Professional Development to guide them in the use of this plan.

Role of Parents

- The role of parents is of the utmost importance in supporting social, personal and health education. They can foster a positive attitude towards Social, Personal and Health Education in children and support the work of the school and the classroom.

Review Target Date

- This plan will be reviewed annually.

Responsibility for the Review

- The principal and teaching staff share responsibility for the review.
- **Ratification and Communication**
- The Board of Management of Scoil na bhForbacha accepts this SPHE policy. This policy was reviewed on 30-05-25. A copy is available in the office and a copy has been made available to the teaching staff.

Dáta: 30/05/2026