

**RODDENSVALE SCHOOL**

**Relationships & Sexuality Education**

**ETHOS:**

The ethos of our school is of a welcoming, caring and tolerant environment which promotes respect for self and each other, thus assisting the pupils/students to become happy and useful members of the adult community.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

With relevance to our school aims, ethos and moral principles held by parents, school management, and the B.O.G. and with reference to the Dept. Ed. Circular 2001/15, we will provide in Roddensvale School, a programme of R.S.E. which complements existing policies and which is appropriate to the needs and maturity of our pupils.

**DEFINITIONS:**

Relationships and sexuality defines all the dimensions of an individual person e.g. physical, mental etc. and encompasses any person with whom the pupil/ student has a relationship i.e. parent, teacher, peer. Sexuality is a unique part of the way we were made and should be treated with respect. It is acknowledged that relationships and sexuality are lifelong processes. It will be taught within the values of the school.

**MORALS AND VALUES FRAMEWORK IN RODDENSVALE SCHOOL:**

Pupils will be taught R.S.E. as part of Personal Development within the following framework of morals and values and grouped according to ability from Key Stage 2 onwards. Within the Junior School the morals and values will be covered in a cross curricular and in some instances discrete method through Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU).

- (a) a respect for self
- (b) a respect for others
- (c) non-exploitation in relationships
- (d) honesty with self and others

- (e) self-discipline

And where appropriate to the individual,

- (f) commitment, trust and bonding within relationships
- (g) exploration of the rights, duties and responsibilities involved in relationships.

**AIMS:**

1. To prepare pupils to cope with the physical and emotional challenges of growing up.
2. To enhance the personal development, self- esteem and well- being of the pupil.
3. To help the pupil develop healthy and respectful friendships and relationships within the family and wider community.
4. To provide a moral, social and spiritual framework which will develop pupils' understanding of human sexuality, relationships and human reproduction.
5. To provide opportunities to encourage responsible behaviour and the ability to make informed decisions and to avoid abusive/ exploitive situations by developing appropriate language/communication re feelings and sexuality.
6. If appropriate and in individual cases, to help the pupil to appreciate the responsibilities of parenthood/marriage/family life.
7. To promote an appreciation of the value of human life and the wonder of birth.

**Equal Opportunities:**

In keeping with the rest of our policies, R.S.E. in Roddensvale will be accessible to pupils regardless of age, culture, disability, gender, religion or social class except for those pupils from the Multi-Sensory classes who follow their own curriculum.

**Policy details:**

1. The co-ordinator for Personal Development, including R.S.E. is Mrs H Stewart
2. R.S.E. will be taught, on the whole, by the class teachers and when/where relevant/applicable, outside agencies (in keeping with the ethos of the school). Mrs Stewart and Mrs Napier, who both have had specific training on teaching R.S.E. to young people with Learning Difficulties, will teach the Sexuality component of R.S.E.

3. R.S.E. will be presented at a level appropriate to age and ability. Up to the end of Key Stage 2, R.S.E. will be cross-curricular, taught as part of the class topic. In addition, from Key Stage 2 upwards, discrete R.S.E. lessons for pupils will be taught. R.S.E. will be taught as part of Personal Development in class topics from Key Stage 3 upwards and will be supplemented with additional discrete R.S.E. lessons. At Post-16, a series of discrete R.S.E. lessons will be provided, covering a range of topics linked to sexuality, sexual health, emotional well-being and reproduction (see Scheme of Work).
4. The appropriateness of the course will be at the teacher's discretion.

**Links with other subjects:**

R.S.E. forms part of Personal Development in the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Activities and experiences within R.S.E. are linked to other curricular areas where appropriate e.g. Health Education, Drama, 16+ curriculum, R.E., Science and Technology.

**Monitoring and Evaluating:**

Date of coverage and evaluatory remarks will be written into the school schemes of work by the teacher. The policy and school schemes of work will be reviewed in the School Development Plan.

**Resources:**

A variety of resources, carefully selected to meet the needs of the pupils, are available in school.

These include:

- All About Us
- You, Your Body and Sex
- CCEA Thematic Units (specifically Knowing and Growing)
- FPA Contraception Kits

**Specific Issues:**

These issues have been discussed with staff and B.O.G. and will be dealt with on an individual basis if/as/when they arise as per the morals and values framework of Roddensvale School.

1. Confidentiality will be treated as per guidance Pg 10 & 11 CCEA document for RSA.
2. Health professionals and visitors involvement (ref. policy formulation/consultation document).

3. Ref: RSE/Child Protection.

**School scheme of work / programme (R.S.E.)**

Involving parents and pupils

Ref pgs.8 & 9 CCEA document.

From Key Stage 2, parents of pupils will be invited to view and evaluate resources which will be used in the school's R.S.E. programme, specifically in the discrete lessons. They will be kept up to date with lesson content and pupil feed back. Where appropriate, pupils will be provided with the opportunity to discuss their needs. The R.S.E. policy and school scheme of work/ programme will be made available in school for inspection. Parents are invited in to school to an information/training session before the Post-16 section of R.S.E. is commenced.

**Policy formulation/consultation/dissemination process:**

Our policy for R.S.E. in Roddensvale School has been created using Dept. Ed. Circular guidance, N.E.E.L.B. in-service training, the FPA and other agencies' expertise and the formulae used for compiling our other school policies. The policy has been presented to the B.O.G., parents and staff, for discussion and approval. Copies are available to parents on request and it is hoped to be available on the school's website.

This policy has been presented to and approved by the Board of Governors