



RCN No:20113285

Dunderrow National School

Roll No: 169400

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Principal: Triona Hannon

Acting Deputy Principal: Leonora Horan

Dunderrow N.S. R.S.E Policy

▪ School Details

- Name: Dunderrow National School
- Address: Dunderrow, Kinsale, Co. Cork
- Phone Number: 021- 4774041
- Category: Catholic, 12 teacher, rural

▪ Introductory Statement & Rationale

This policy statement is an approved approach to the teaching of RSE in Dunderrow National School. It was developed by Dunderrow National School's I.S.L. Policy Committee, in consultation with the parents, staff and Board of Management.

▪ School Philosophy

Dunderrow National School is an inclusive school and therefore all policies developed are implemented in ways which are in keeping with the ethos of the school. The ethos of the school is characterised by the following:

- Sensitive to the reality of our children's lives in a changing world.
- Mutual respect between all partners in education.
- Child-centred education.
- Aims to ensure each child reaches full potential in the holistic sense.
- Hopes that children are equipped with high self-esteem to enable them to go to live happy and fulfilled lives.

▪ Definition of RSE

RSE 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.

▪ Current Provision

Included in the school curriculum is:

- Religious Education (Grow in Love).
- SPHE: Stay Safe, Walk Tall and RSE programmes.
- Webwise Internet Safety Guest Speaker.
- RSE talks by qualified Public Health Nurse to both Fifth and Sixth classes.
- Yoga and mindfulness activities.

▪ **Aims of our RSE programme**

- To help young people develop healthy friendships and relationships.
- To promote a healthy attitude to sexuality and to relationships.
- To enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well-being of the child.
- To help the child to 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 enable the child to be comfortable with the sexuality of oneself and others while growing and developing.
- Providing the children with age-appropriate information.

▪ **Guidelines for the Management and Organisation of RSE in our School**

Curriculum Matters:

- Curriculum Content – The curriculum designed by NCCA will be followed as published, and will be taught in Infants to 6th class. A qualified Public Health Nurse will help address the sexually sensitive issues in 5th/6th, and teach explicit RSE lessons in relation to this. All resources used will be in keeping with the ethos of the school and the policy.
- The R.S.E. programme will be facilitated in three ways within the school:
 - In the context of a positive school climate and atmosphere.
 - As part of a timetabled S.P.H.E. programme.
 - On an integrated cross-curricular basis.
ie. English, Maths, Environmental Studies, Music, Drama, Art.

Organisational Matters:

- With regard to how matters of a confidential nature are managed, the school cannot take any responsibility for what is discussed in the yard or classroom.
- Any teacher has the right to opt-out from teaching the sexually sensitive issues in RSE. It is the responsibility of the Board of Management to ensure that the curriculum will be taught to the children by another teacher/speaker.
- Parents are welcome to view the curriculum and may speak to the class teacher if they have any concerns.

Dealing with Questions:

All questions answered will reflect the parameters of the curriculum. Certain topics will not be discussed i.e. abortion, masturbation, homosexuality, contraception. Questions to the teacher may be written or oral within the group setting and answered within the boundaries of the curriculum and policy. Any questions asked by the children that are judged to be inappropriate, the teacher will refer the child to their parents. The school cannot guarantee confidentiality if a child asks a question of a personal nature of them or discloses personal information. The Designated Liaison Person (D.L.P.) is Triona Hannon and Deputy Designated Liaison Officer is Leonora Horan (for the 2023/2024 school year.)

▪ **Provision for Ongoing Support**

- Parents are welcome to view the curriculum if they wish.
Opportunities will be afforded to parents/guardians to engage with their children on the content at various stages throughout the programme. Each lesson will have worksheet activities, home school links etc. that invites the participation of parents/guardians.
 - Contact with parents prior to the teaching of lessons involving “sensitive issues” in the form of a letter.
 - ‘Busy Bodies’ booklet will be given to parents of 6th Class and 5th Class girls. Parents may also borrow the ‘Busy Bodies’ DVD.

Child Protection

The school follows the D.E.S. child protection guidelines (revised 2023) and has a Child Protection policy with the Principal, Triona Hannon as Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Principal Leonora Horan as Deputy Designated Liaison Person In cases of disclosure; the D.L.P. will follow the procedures as set out in Children First 2017

Review

This policy will be reviewed after two years. This policy will also be reviewed should a need arise. Parents and staff will be informed of any amendments made by the Principal and Board of Management.

This school plan was formulated by the principal and staff, in consultation with parents, management and ancillary staff. It was approved by the Board of Management in May 2021 and reviewed by staff in November 2023

Pat O' Leary

Triona Hannon

Pat O' Leary, Chairperson BOM

Triona Hannon, Principal

Date: 11.12.2023