

 **St. Senan’s N.S.**

R.S.E. POLICY

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**OUR SCHOOL PHILISOPHY.**

St. Senan’s National School is a school where each individual pupil is made to feel that he/she belongs to a community which,

1. Promotes the development of self-discipline,
2. Encourages individuals to recognize their potential,
3. Helps pupils to acquire a good self-image and
4. To develop a respect for these qualities in others.

We nurture a love of learning and while acknowledging the importance of academic excellence strive to contribute to all aspects of each pupil’s development - spiritual, emotional social, cultural, creative and moral.

The school takes account of the changing social and economic conditions of our country and nurtures in each pupil those attitudes and skills that enable him/her to cope. It endeavours to foster attitudes and skills to enable a positive use of leisure time now and later. It encourages an attitude of practical concern for the local environment. We acknowledge and respect the uniqueness of each individual and their environment.

The school recognizes the important role of parents and clergy in the development of the pupils and it welcomes them as partner in achieving what is best for all the pupils.

Above all, the school is a community where Faith and the values of the Gospel find daily expression in every activity with the school.

**DEFINITION OF R.S.E.**

R.S.E. aims to help children learn at home and in school about their own development and about their friendships and relationships with each other. It will provide opportunities for children to learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help them think and act in a moral caring and responsible way.

**RELATIONSHIP OF R.S.E. TO S.P.H.E.**

SPHE is the process, which enables children to develop, and understanding of themselves. It helps them to choose and follow a healthy lifestyle and enables them to play responsible roles as individuals and members of society. RSE is situated within SPHE, but it deals with specific aspects of SPHE such as

1. Human growth and development
2. Human sexuality
3. Parenting
4. Personal and social skills
5. Relationships.

**WHAT THE SCHOOL CURRENTLY PROVIDES.**

At present many aspects of R.S.E. and S.P.H.E. are being covered by the pupils in their day-to-day work in the school.

1. Formal Provision.
	1. The Stay Safe Programme. What do we do in a situation where we do not feel safe?
	2. Existing School Subjects.
	3. Religious Education. ‘Grow in Love/Alive-O’ Programme.
	4. Physical Education - Games, physical skills, looking after our bodies, playing on teams, keeping the rules of games, being a sports person, playing fair.
	5. Social and Environmental Studies - The study of nature, plants and animals, parts of the body, looking after our environment.
	6. Basic Science (senior classes) - The composition of our bodies, cells, our skeleton, various systems in the human body.
2. Informal Provision -The school is constantly providing S.P.H.E. and R.S.E. training/education informally through
	1. Creating a supportive school climate.
	2. The school rules - Realization that we must respect other pupils and school property. Sharing with and caring for others.
	3. Competitions- Eat Healthy Competitions, Skipathon etc.
	4. Fostering self-esteem.
	5. Fostering a sense of responsibility.
	6. Rewarding effort.
	7. Valuing uniqueness and difference between pupils.
	8. Encouraging initiative and creativity.
	9. Promotion of social, religious and moral values.
	10. Promotion of high standards.
	11. The promotion of prayer and the sacraments.
	12. The provision of swimming.
	13. Project work.
	14. Healthy Eating.
	15. These areas are covered by the Class Teacher, the Local Clergy, the Local Gardaí and by visiting speakers who from time to time are invited to the school.

**AIMS OF OUR R.S.E. PROGRAMME**

1. To help young people develop healthy friendships and relationships.
2. To promote and understanding of sexuality.
3. To promote a healthy attitude to sexuality and to relationships.
4. To promote knowledge of and respect for reproduction.
5. To enable young people to develop healthy attitudes and values towards their sexuality in a moral, spiritual and social framework.

**THE MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION OF R.S.E. IN OUR SCHOOL.**

R.S.E. will be an integral part of Social, Personal and Health Education.

The R.S.E. Curriculum and Guidelines recommend a spiral curriculum. Topics will be treated over several years and some will be dealt with in more senior classes only. The teaching will differ in depth in the different years. Successive development of topics will depend on the maturity of the students.

Arrangements regarding the teaching and time tabling of the programme will be made by the principal.

From Junior Infants children will be taught the names and parts of their body. As the children progress through school they will be enabled to identify and explore the physical changes that occur in males and females with the onset of puberty. The parents will be given prior notice regarding the content and timing of the delivery of this section of the RSE programme. Parents will be encouraged to prepare their child as they see appropriate.

In 5th and 6th class the above content will be covered in more detail. 5th and 6th will also become familiar with the reproductive system of both male and female. They will understand how sexual intercourse, conception and birth take place. They will recognize the physical changes as part of the ongoing process of growth and development which is common to everyone.

Arrangements will be made for an external facilitator to present the sexuality content of the programme to 5th and 6th Classes, separately. The following procedure will be used and will occur annually.

1. A meeting between facilitator and parents of 5th + 6th class pupils will take place where the content will be explained and questions answered.
2. Notice will be given as to the date that the facilitator will visit the school. Parents will be encouraged to prepare their children as they see appropriate.

**ONGOING SUPPORT, DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW**

* The principal will co-ordinate the progress of the policy, encourage and accept feedback on its implementation from parents and Board of Management members and report back to the staff.
* The policy will be reviewed as required.
* Responsibility for co-ordinating the review of the policy will be undertaken by the Principal.
* R.S.E. resources will be kept up to date.
* Ongoing training and information will be provided (depending on demand) for both parents and teachers.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
( Chairperson of the Board of Management) ( Principal)

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_