

Non Scholae Sed Vitae



Scoil An Chuilleanaigh

RSE Policy

Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy

Name: Cullina National School
Address: Beaufort Killarney Co Kerry
Tel. No. 0646644788.

Representatives of parents, the Board of Management and teachers drew up this policy.

Our School Philosophy or Ethos

Cullina National School is a rural school in Co Kerry serving a close-knit community.

Parents are very interested in and actively involved in their children's education and school life in general. The happiness, well-being and educational advancement of their children are of central importance to them.

The school's ethos is Catholic (Christian). Loving God and your neighbour as yourself are central to the school's ethos. Prayer and Christian teaching form a very important part of the school day.

The school aims to build a supportive school environment in which:

1. Every child feels valued and important.
2. Every child thinks highly of himself/herself and his/her abilities.
3. Every child appreciates that everybody is unique and different and has talents of his/her own.
4. Children treat each other and adults with respect, tolerance, courtesy, honesty, dignity, fairness and kindness.
5. High standards of work and behaviour are promoted and expected.
6. Effort is recognised and rewarded.

7. Children with difficulties are given extra support and help by all.
8. Children are encouraged to speak openly.
9. Initiative and creativity are encouraged.
10. Every child makes appropriate educational progress during every one of their years in the school.
11. The educational attainments of the pupils leaving sixth class are of a level that will enable them to take on the second level programme with ease.
12. Social, moral and civic values are promoted.

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 others. This work will be based on developing a good self-image, promoting respect for themselves and others and providing them with appropriate information.

The Place of R.S.E. in the Curriculum

R.S.E. forms a part of the wider programme of Social, Personal and Health Education which includes a wide range of topics such as healthy eating, alcohol, drugs, safety and social responsibility.

The Aims of our R.S.E. Programme

- To enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well-being of the child;
- To help the child to develop healthy friendships and relationships;

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 the sexuality of oneself and others while growing and developing;
- To counteract the misinformation about relationships and sexuality which many children get from other children in the playground, television “soaps” and magazines and to acquire the correct language for dealing with the subject.

Guidelines for the Management and Organisation of R.S.E. in our School

Children will be taught the programme using a discussion-based methodology in the Social, Personal and Health Education time slot.

This policy has an overview of the content of the R.S.E. curriculum. Parents are welcome to call to the school to examine the curriculum in full.

Parents are the primary educators of their children. Schools and teachers exist to help parents in the education of their children. Parents should discuss sensitive topics with their children at home before they are dealt with in school [e.g. the correct names for all body parts (Infants), puberty (Third and Fourth Classes) and conception (Sixth Class)]. Children will only be taught the content that is laid down as being appropriate for their class.

The children's or teachers' personal lives or experiences will never be a subject for discussion and everybody should feel at ease with the programme.

The religious and moral dimensions of human sexuality will always be kept in mind in the teaching of the R.S.E. programme.

Review

This R.S.E. policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management in 2017/2018 to assess its strengths and weaknesses and to make any changes.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil an Chuileannaigh at its meeting held on 23rd October 2012

**Signed: *Griffith J Griffiths*
(Chairperson of Board of Management)**

**Signed: *Máire Bn Uí Chroinín*
Principal**