

Dundela Infants' School and Nursery Unit



Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Policy

Compiled: December 2016

J Davidson

Ratified:

To be reviewed: December 2018

POLICY STATEMENT

Dundela Infants' School and Nursery Unit attaches great importance to the maintenance and development of a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment in which pupils, parents, staff and governors co-operate to promote values of self-respect and respect for others. This policy reflects the aims and objectives of the school, whilst taking account of **RSE Guidance for Primary Schools**:

The general aim of education is to contribute towards the development of all aspects of the individual, including the aesthetic, creative, critical, cultural, emotional, moral, physical, political, social and spiritual development for personal and family life, for living in the community and for leisure. Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is clearly a part of this general aim.

This policy has been agreed by the governors, staff and parents of the school and through consultation with relevant advisors.

RATIONALE

Dundela Infants' School and Nursery Unit is wholly committed to the education of young children, regardless of their race, religion, gender or social status. Relationships and sexuality are integral parts of being human and impact biologically, psychologically, culturally, socially and spiritually. The nurturing ethos of the school is the foundation of our RSE policy. We recognise that RSE is a lifelong process which involves the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills, and the development of attitudes, beliefs, morals and values.

AIMS

- ❖ To place our pupils at the centre of an RSE programme which helps them to understand the values and morals inherent within the context of personal development
- ❖ To promote in our pupils a positive feeling of self-worth so that each one develops an awareness that they are special and unique
- ❖ To give our pupils the opportunity to understand and deal with their feelings
- ❖ To foster in our pupils an awareness that actions have consequences and that their behaviour should reflect this
- ❖ To equip our pupils with the skills and knowledge necessary to make informed choices and decisions about their own behaviour and safety

- ❖ To help our pupils develop healthy and respectful relationships by encouraging positive role modelling within the school environment
- ❖ To promote in our pupils a healthy attitude to sexuality, appropriate to their age and stage of development
- ❖ To develop self-confidence and resilience in our pupils so that they have the foundations necessary for learning appropriate strategies and skills to stay safe

MORALS AND VALUES FRAMEWORK

In Dundela Infants' School and Nursery Unit we recognise the equal worth of all children. The diversity of family life is recognised but stable, caring and loving relationships will be presented to our pupils as the ideal.

RSE is not intended to be free of values. Our programme therefore aims to present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner, set within a clear framework based on the values of self-respect and respect for others, and an awareness of the law on sexual behaviour. It is tailored very much to the age, maturity and understanding of our young pupils.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW FOR RSE: TOPICS/THEMES

Myself

Parts of the body

Being myself

Similarities and differences between myself and others

The stages of human development

Recognising moods, feelings and concerns and developing a language for expressing these

Personal likes and dislikes

My Relationships

My family; special people in my life

Friendships

Ageing

Loss and mourning

Respect and caring for family members and friends

Bullies

Personal safety: simple skills and practices

Good and bad touches

Adults and older children are not always friends

Good and bad secrets

The potential danger of relationships with strangers or acquaintances

Strategies for dealing with potentially dangerous situations

My Community/Environment

Different types of families

Roles of individuals within families

Keeping safe, staying safe

Rules at home, at school and in the community

Respect and caring for people in the community

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Governors determines the policy and monitors its implementation.

The Principal ensures a co-ordinated approach to RSE and consults with the Board of Governors, RSE co-ordinator, staff, parents, pupils, health professionals and others.

The Co-ordinator is responsible for the policy and the implementation of a scheme for RSE, monitoring work carried out in the school and meeting with staff to plan and implement any changes to learning and teaching in RSE. The co-ordinator is expected to keep up-to-date with any changes to requirements in the learning area, to replenish relevant resources when necessary and to be available to advise or seek assistance for teachers who need it.

Teaching Staff will be provided with and will undertake appropriate training, and plan for and implement the RSE programme within the school.

Non-Teaching Staff play a part in maintaining the caring ethos of the school through their daily interactions with other staff, pupils and parents.

Parents share a complementary role with school staff in promoting self-respect and respect for others.

Pupils will be afforded opportunities to have their opinions heard regarding the RSE programme they are offered in school.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Dundela Infants' School and Nursery Unit seeks to ensure that our RSE programme is relevant and accessible to all of our pupils, regardless of age, gender, disability, culture, religion or social class.

The school is respectful of the views of parents and will make suitable arrangements should a parent wish to withdraw their child from aspects of RSE. However, the school also recognises that the teaching of RSE is a statutory requirement and will discourage withdrawal whenever possible.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality cannot be guaranteed: if a child makes a disclosure of a confidential nature, it will be treated with sensitivity but child protection procedures will be implemented in accordance with

our Safeguarding Policy. A copy of the full Safeguarding Policy is available at the school office for parents' inspection.

ORGANISATION OF THE CURRICULUM

RSE is a statutory part of the curriculum and will be taught in a holistic, cross-curricular way, always keeping in mind the young age of the pupils. Issues can be integrated within specific topics addressed through health education, pastoral work and during circle and assembly time. In many instances, RSE shares content with Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU), Information and Communication Technology (ICT), World Around Us (WAU) and Religious Education (RE). Although specific topics will be addressed, other areas may arise incidentally and will then be treated with sensitivity. As with other areas of the curriculum, teachers will use a variety of strategies and approaches and will be aware of and take into account the variety of existing pupil knowledge, their different home attitudes and beliefs, as well as the pupils' capacity to understand the issues. Class teachers will deliver most of the RSE programme. However, occasions may arise when the expertise of outside agencies will be utilised, for example, Police Service, NSPCC and Women's Aid.

TERMINOLOGY

In teaching issues related to RSE, teachers will use the correct biological terms for parts of the body. The use of common slang will be avoided.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The provision for RSE within Dundela Infants' School and Nursery Unit will be monitored through schemes of work, lesson planning notes, and lesson observations and evaluations. Teachers are required to evaluate the teaching and learning within their own classroom to inform future planning. The school will take into account teacher, parent and pupil feedback when reviewing the effectiveness of the programme. It is the responsibility of the co-ordinator to make arrangements for and oversee the monitoring and evaluation process.

LINKS WITH OTHER SCHOOL POLICIES

The RSE Policy forms a part of our overall Pastoral Care Policy at Dundela Infants' School and Nursery Unit and is therefore closely linked to the other Pastoral Care Policies of Safeguarding,

Drug Education, Anti-Bullying and Positive Behaviour Management. RSE is also referenced in the school PDMU, ICT, WAU and RE Policies.

RESOURCES

NSPCC Underwear Rule and E-Safety Resources

Living. Learning. Together. Resources Pack

Helping Hands Programme

EA resources on e-safety, safeguarding for parents, and child sexual exploitation (to raise staff awareness) – <http://www.eani.org.uk/schools/safeguarding-and-child-protection>

DE Circulars 2001/15a, 2001/15b, 2010/01, 2013/16, 2015/22

ETI Guidance – RSE, January 2014

ETI Report, RSE in Primary and Special Schools, July 2016

DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY

The content of this policy will be made available to all governors and members of the school staff team (including those providing substitute cover). It will also be available to parents (hard copy on request, e-copy on school website). All outside agencies, visiting professionals and the school nurse will be provided with a copy of the policy and instructed to follow the procedures therein.

WORKING WITH OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Dundela Infants' School and Nursery Unit and Nursery Unit may at times use the expertise of outside agencies. When appropriate, suitably qualified, experienced or knowledgeable visitors from outside agencies, both statutory and non-statutory, may be invited to contribute to the delivery of the RSE curriculum in school.

REVIEW

This policy is a living document and will be kept under continuous review by school staff to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. The policy will be formally reviewed and adopted by the Board of Governors every other year. This may result in a change of organisation, method or content, as required. The review will be achieved through consultation with staff, governors and parents, using pupil feedback, and through direct observation of the school's curriculum and procedures.

APPENDIX 1: Useful Links

NSPCC – www.nspcc.org.uk – 028 90351135

Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland – 028 90311611

Childline UK – 0800 1111

Kidscape – 020 77303300

Barnardos – www.barnardos.org.uk

Child Exploitation and Online Protection for Teachers and Parents – www.thinkuknow.co.uk

[Education Authority NI, Safeguarding and Child Protection –
www.eani.org.uk/schools/safeguarding-and-child-protection](http://www.eani.org.uk/schools/safeguarding-and-child-protection)