# Ballykeel Primary School

# Relationships & Sexuality Policy

Updated: June 2020

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## Our School Ethos

In Ballykeel, all staff are highly committed to the care and well-being of each child and seek to contribute to the holistic development of all children entrusted to our care. We are a welcoming and inclusive school and our identity is demonstrated through the promotion of the Christian values of respect, tolerance, kindness, truthfulness, forgiveness, friendship, responsibility, trust and perseverance. With the aim of inspiring everyone to become a lifelong learner, pupils and teachers are encouraged to embrace all opportunities and challenges positively.

We aim to provide an environment which is child-centred and where pupils feel secure, valued and cared for. Through high quality, creative and forward-thinking teaching we aim to **educate** and **inspire** every child to reach their full potential and offer them a wide range of **enrich**ed opportunities for their personal development and well-being. Ultimately, we wish to enable all our children to confidently transfer to secondary school and help to equip them to achieve happiness, success and fulfilment in adult life (School Prospectus 2019).

## Rationale:

At Ballykeel, we aim to ensure RSE is taught in a sensitive and meaningful manner throughout PDMU and other areas of the curriculum. Our programme of RSE will provide a framework of values and ideals within which the children will be given positive messages about family life, relationships and responsibilities, reflecting the Christian ethos that permeates the work of the school.

In 2015, CCEA provided updated guidance on the provision of RSE, to ensure that school policies are reflective of our ever changing society and advances in digital technology. Schools also have the added support of an RSE Hub created in 2019, offering resources and relevant links.

This policy was updated in consultation with the Principal, Staff and the Board of Governors. We further recognise the importance of working in partnership with parents/carers in this area of personal development and acknowledge the contribution that can be made by outside agencies with skill and expertise in particular areas of the curriculum (e.g. Barnardos Jigsaw Project, Women's Aid and School Nursing Service). Parents and pupils have opportunities to contribute ideas and give feedback through parental consultation groups, meet the teacher sessions, information sent home from the RSE Co-ordinator and pupil questionnaires. The RSE policy can also be accessed through our school website.

This policy has been drawn up in line with

- The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (www.legislation.gov.uk)

- UNCRC (www.unicef.org.uk/Documents/Publicationpdfs/UNCRC_PRESS200910web.pdf)
- *Every School a Good School, Together Towards Improvement* and *Community Relations, Equality and Diversity in Education Policy*. (www.deni.gov.uk)
- *Relationships & Sexuality Education Guidance, An Update for Primary Schools (CCEA 2015)*

## Definition of RSE:

Relationships and Sexuality Education is a lifelong learning process, subject to change and development throughout life. Sexuality is an integral part of the human personality and has biological, cultural, psychological, social and spiritual dimensions.

Effective Relationships and Sexuality Education is essential if children are to value themselves as individuals and are to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives.

## Our Aims in Teaching RSE:

Relationships and Sexuality Education in primary schools should provide children with opportunities to:

- Acquire knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for growth and development
- Develop attitudes, beliefs and values about our identity, relationships and intimacy
- Recognise and communicate their feelings effectively
- Learn about the changes that take place in the human body, particularly the physical and emotional changes that occur during adolescence
- Develop an awareness of how to stay safe, including online safety
- Recognise inappropriate behaviour and touch
- Form values and establish behaviour within a moral, spiritual and social framework
- To examine and explore the various relationships in their personal lives;
- Develop personal skills which will help to establish and sustain healthy personal relationships
- Make positive, responsible choices about themselves and others and the way they live their lives.
- Develop an awareness of differing family patterns

## The Role of the Staff:

- Lessons are delivered in a manner sensitive to age, maturity and ability.
- All pupils are made to feel safe and secure and in accordance with relevant pastoral care and safeguarding policies.
- An atmosphere of inclusion and understanding is promoted consistently, regarding differences in race, age, disability, ethnicity, religion, culture, gender and sexual orientation.
- Children will be equipped to deal with online safety matters.
- Model and encourage the correct biological terminology to promote understanding and effective communication from an early age.
- Ensure adequate support is in place for pupils, taking into consideration CLA pupils, children with SEN requirements and pupils living in difficult home circumstances.

## Delivering the RSE Programme:

Currently RSE lessons are taught throughout the school in RE, Health Education, PDMU, PE, The World Around Us, assemblies, and in any other appropriate areas of the curriculum. There are many links to RSE lessons during anti-bullying week when we focus on respect for ourselves and others. It also forms a large part of our focus during online safety lessons. The programme is available to all pupils, including those with special educational needs.

All teachers are responsible for teaching RSE. It is particularly important for teaching staff to be aware of the fact that physical development may outstrip emotional maturity and to accommodate this disparity in class lessons and experiences. If any disclosures are made, confidentiality will be maintained and teachers will follow agreed procedures set out in the Child Protection Policy.

The safeguarding team meet weekly to discuss any issues that arise pertaining to the health and well-being of our pupils. We ensure that strategies are in place for any child who may need extra support when dealing with any topics covered within RSE lessons.

Parents reserve the right to withdraw their children from RSE lessons. The school will provide alternative arrangements for pupils who are removed from part or the entire RSE programme. Information is given to parents before lessons on Puberty are taught in Primary 7. Guidance is offered to all parents/carers and extra support is available for parents through our Jigsaw Family Worker should they require it.

Lessons on puberty and the reproductive organs are led by Mr Fisher (CP Co-Ordinator & DT) and Mrs Thompson (RSE Co-Ordinator). Boys and girls are taught separately, but the same content is covered.

Resources from the RSE Hub, BBC Bitesize, Destination Adolescence and Living, Learning Together pack form aspects of the lessons.

Monitoring and Evaluating is carried out by the Principal and relevant co-ordinators using evaluations of two weekly planners, co-ordinator annual reports, sharing of good practice and feedback from parents and pupils. This informs our planning and the reviewing of the RSE policy is included in the School Development Plan.

## Other Relevant Policies and Procedures:

The school has a duty to ensure that safeguarding permeates all activities. This policy therefore complements and supports a range of other school policies and procedures for:

- Pastoral Care
- Positive Behaviour
- Special Educational Needs
- Child Protection
- Acceptable use of Mobile Phones and Related Technologies
- Acceptable use of the Internet and Digital Technologies
- Online Safety
- Attendance
- Drug & Alcohol Education
- Health and Safety
- Intimate Care
- Educational Visits

These policies are available to parents and any parent requiring a copy should contact the school Principal or visit the school website.

# Keeping Children Safe Online
## RSE Guidance www.ccea.org.uk

- www.saferinternet.org.uk

UK Safer Internet Centre have produced a range of resources to help schools teach pupils about staying safe online. These resources include a range of games, films, quizzes and advice and are pitched at children between 3–11 years old.

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) 'thinkuknow' website contains advice and resources for teachers exploring the risks which children and young people are exposed to when online. CEOP have produced targeted advice and guidance for parents or carers and teachers, and for children aged 5–7 and 8–10 years old.

- www.childnet.com/teachers-and-professionals

Childnet International provides in-depth advice for teachers in their 'hot topics' section, covering issues such as sexting, online grooming, cyberbullying and online gaming safety. There is also an online resource bank which contains lesson plans and activity ideas suitable for children of primary school age – this is available at www.childnet.com/resources.

- www.kidsmart.org.uk

This website contains useful support for teachers, including resources for teaching children about staying safe online.

Recognising and challenging inappropriate behaviour and touch

- www.nspcc.org.uk
  www.safertoknow.info

The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland's (SBNI) website contains useful information and resources to raise awareness on child sexual exploitation.

Sexual orientation, gender identity and homophobic bullying

- www.stonewall.org.uk

This website provides access to many resources on celebrating difference and encouraging respect for one another in the primary classroom setting.

- www.the-classroom.org.uk

This website provides detailed advice on many aspects of teaching and learning to make LGBT people visible in education. It includes presentations, detailed lesson plans and a range of inclusive teaching resources celebrating diversity.

## Useful Contacts:

- Childline Phone **0800 1111**

    https://www.childline.org.uk/

- Parentline NI  0808 8020 40

    Email: parentline@ci-ni.org.uk

- Family Support NI

    https://www.familysupportni.gov.uk/

- Bernardos

    https://www.barnardos.org.uk/northern-ireland

## Useful Links for Teaching RSE:

- https://ccea.org.uk/learning-resources/relationships-and-sexuality-education-rse/healthy-positive-sexual-expression

- https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/northern-ireland-resources

- https://www.verywellfamily.com/puberty-resources-for-girls-3288406

- https://learningforapurpose.com/2018/05/10/free-resources-to-teach-boys-about-puberty/

- https://www.autism.org.uk/about/communication/sex-education.aspx

- https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/rse-ks2-puberty-whats-happening-to-my-body/znhdvk7

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