

Lyreacrompane N.S. RSE Policy

This policy was drafted by a committee with input from teachers, parents and the Board of Management.

Ethos of School: This statement reflects the overall ethos of our school which states

Ladhar an Chrompáin is a co-educational, Catholic, primary school which strives to provide a well-ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural needs of the pupils are identified and addressed.

While Ladhar an Chrompáin is an school with a Catholic ethos, it also has due recognition for all other religions.

Ladhar an Chrompáin will strive to promote, both individually and collectively, the professional and personal development of teachers through staff development programmes.

Ladhar an Chrompáin will encourage the involvement of parents through home/school contacts and through their involvement in the S. N. Ladhar and Chrompáin Board of Management.

Ladhar an Chrompáin will endeavour to enhance the self-esteem of everyone in the school community, to imbue in the pupils respect for people and property and to encourage in them the idea of being responsible.

Ladhar an Chrompáin will promote gender equity amongst the teachers and pupils.

Déanfaimid iarracht Gaeilge a labhairt.

Definition of Relationships and Sexuality Education

“ Relationships and Sexuality Education seeks to provide children with opportunities to acquire knowledge and understanding of relationships and human sexuality, through processes which will enable them to form values and establish behaviours within a moral, spiritual and social framework.”

What the school provides:

All of the relationship and sexuality content will be taught in the context of our SPHE curriculum, particularly in the units “*Taking care of the body*” and “*Growing and Changing*”. These units will be taught by an outside speaker in the final term. All sensitive areas will be deferred until child reaches the senior classes.

Content of Sensitive Areas.

- Name parts of the male/female body using appropriate anatomical terms
- Name parts of the male/female body using appropriate anatomical terms and identify some of their functions.
- Discuss the stages and sequence of the development of the human baby in the womb
- Changes that occur in boys and girls with the onset of puberty, reproductive system of male/female adults, understand sexual intercourse, conception and birth within the context of a committed loving relationship.
- It will be left to the discretion of the principal and class teachers in consultation with the outside speaker to modify this content to meet the needs of pupils in multiclass situations or with special educational requirements.

Aims:

- 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 develop an understanding of, and a respect for, human love, sexual intercourse and reproduction.
- 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.
- To enable the child to develop a sense of personal responsibility and come to understand his/her sexuality and the processes of growth, development and reproduction.

Management and Organisation of RSE in our School

- Parents are acknowledged as primary educators of their children and we work in a supportive role.
- All content objectives will be covered by the time the children leave 6th class.
- Teachers' right to opt out from teaching the sensitive issues will be honoured.
- If no teacher is available to teach this content, a visitor approach will be used. Parents will be invited to meet with the visitor and teacher will remain present during the teaching of the lesson.
- A parent's right to withdraw a pupil from the process will be honoured on the understanding that the parent is taking full responsibility for this aspect of education themselves. They inform the school of this decision in writing.

The school has no responsibility for any information which the pupils receive outside the direct teaching of these lessons.

It is left to the discretion of the teacher/visitor to answer relevant questions in a factual, sensitive and age appropriate manner. However any pupil who asks a question which is outside the content and not age appropriate for the general class will be referred back to their own parents for an answer.

Implementation: This policy will be implemented from September 2008