

Relationship, Sexuality Education (RSE) Policy

*All of the RSE programme will be delivered within the
context of SPHE and will include elements of RSE, Stay
Safe, Walk Tall and Learn Together programme*

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School Details:

Name: Douglas Rochestown Educate Together National School

Address: Carr's Hill, Douglas, Cork

Telephone: 021 489 0122 / 085 2428753

Email: info@dretns.ie

Roll Number: 20413N

Principal: Dr. Alan Sheehan

The school premises consist of the area within the school boundaries/fence at Carr's Hill. School start/end times are as follows:

Start Time:	End Time:
8.30 am	1.10 pm/2.10 pm

The school doors open at 8.20am. The school provides supervision of pupils within the school grounds only from 8.20am – 1.20pm for Junior and Senior Infants and from 8.20am – 2.20 pm for all other Classes. Please note that no responsibility is accepted for anyone in the areas outside the school fencing. Please also note that no responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before 8.20am or for supervising pupils after 1.20pm/2.20pm.

General Information:

Douglas Rochestown ETNS is under the patronage of Educate Together. It is based on four key principles: Child-centered, Co-educational, Democratic and Equality-based.

Douglas Rochestown ETNS follows the curricular programmes prescribed by the Department of Education and Science, which may be amended from time to time, in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act (1998).

Definition of RSE

Relationships and Sexuality Education is concerned with the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the development of attitudes, beliefs and values about relationships, sexual identity and intimacy.

It deals with specific issues such as human growth and development, human sexuality, parenting, personal and social skills and relationships.

Aims of the Policy

The aims of RSE are situated within the broader aims of SPHE. We aim:

- To enhance the personal development, self esteem and well being of the child.
- To enable the child to develop healthy relationships and friendships.
- To foster an understanding of, and develop a healthy attitude to human sexuality and relationships in a moral, spiritual and social framework.
- To enable the child to acquire an understanding of, and respect for human love 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 his/her own sexuality and that of others while growing and developing.

These are the overall aims of the programme to be met in ways appropriate to the age and stage of development of the children.

Education Programme:

All of the RSE programme will be delivered within the context of SPHE and will include elements of RSE, Stay Safe, Walk Tall and Learn Together programme.

Sexually Sensitive issues, those issues/areas of RSE that deal with understanding sexuality and the processes of growth, development and reproduction will be covered within the strand units “ Taking care of my body” and “ Growing and changing”.

These issues will furthermore be delivered within the context of a moral framework consistent with the values and ethos of our school. Within this framework pupils begin to clarify their own value systems and develop their moral reasoning ability.

Continuity of language and content will be maintained throughout the school

Planning and Implementation

In planning and implementing the RSE programme we will have regard to the following:

- The child’s entitlement to appropriate RSE as per the Department of Education and Skills’ RSE programme
- The right to confidentiality and privacy of children, parents and staff.
- The rights and responsibilities of parents. (Parents are acknowledged as the primary educators of their children. The school works in a supportive role.)
- That materials, information and speakers used as part of the programme conform with our school’s policy and ethos.
- Promotion of gender equality.
- The professional judgment and expertise of teachers.

Management/Organisation:

- All content objectives will be covered by the time the children leave 6th class.
- Time- tabling: one half hour period per week is timetabled in each class for SPHE. RSE will be included in the programme taught during this time. RSE modules will be covered during the later school terms as decided at the beginning of each year when the SPHE timetable is outlined and approved.
- Teachers will be encouraged and supported to teach the sensitive issues to their own class.
- Teachers’ right to opt out from teaching the sensitive issues will be honoured.

- In such circumstances the Principal will make arrangements to have this section of the programme taught.
- A suitable speaker may be invited to deliver the contents of the programme to 6th class. All material taught to be in accordance with prescribed SPHE programme.
- Parents will be informed that the RSE lessons are being taught.
- Parents will be furnished with the content of the lessons relating to the sensitive issues before the lessons are conducted. The home/school links letter in the RSE manual will be given to the parents when this need arises. The sensitive issues are deemed to be the following:
 1. Senior Infants: Theme 7 My Body
Aim: To help the children learn about their bodies and in this context to learn correct terms for body parts. Vocabulary to be covered will be penis, vagina, womb.
 2. Fourth Class: Theme 6 The wonder of new life
Aim: To provide the children with opportunities to recognise and learn to sequence the stages of development of the human baby from conception to birth.
 3. Sixth Class: Theme 7 Relationships and New Life
Aims: i) To inform about the changes that take place during puberty.
ii) To inform about the beginning of new life, conception and pregnancy and to explore its impact on a family.

The RSE manual will inform the content of the lessons.

- A parent's right to withdraw a pupil from the process will be honoured subject to their making suitable supervision arrangements in consultation with the Principal and on the understanding that the parent is taking full responsibility for this aspect of education themselves. Parents need to place this undertaking in writing to the school.
- It is the responsibility of the parent to inform the school of this decision after they have been supplied with the lesson content of a sensitive nature as outlined above.
- Teachers do not need to seek permission for the RSE programme content outside of these sensitive areas as it is a mandatory part of the SPHE curriculum.

Provision for Support/Development and Review

There is a need for ongoing support, development and review of RSE policy and programme. This will include:

- In-service training for staff. All offers of staff training will be posted on staff notice board and may be discussed at Staff Meetings.
- Review at staff meetings and teacher/ parent meetings.
- Adherence to the above policy is the responsibility of all school staff supported by the school community
- The development of appropriate resources
- Parents will be informed about the policy on enrolment.

Resources:

RSE books (all classes)

RSE related material- Stay Safe programme

Ratification and Review:

The Policy and programme will be reviewed after one year and every 2nd year thereafter. All partners will be informed of any amendments necessary after such a review.

The policy was reviewed by the Board of Management on 14th October 2015.

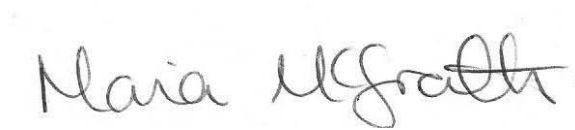
The policy was reviewed by the Board of Management on 7th June 2016.

The policy was reviewed by the Board of Management on 20th September 2017.
The policy was reviewed by the Board of Management on 29th August 2018.
The policy was reviewed by the Board of Management on 21st November 2018.
The policy was reviewed by the Board of Management on 18th May 2022.

Communication:

The policy has been made available to school personnel via the school website (www.dretns.ie). A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department of Education and Skills and the patron (Educate Together) if requested.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Maria McGrath". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a trailing flourish.

Maria McGrath
Chairperson of the Board of Management