



Scoil Bhríde,  
Mionloch,  
Gaillimh.

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## **Scoil Bhríde** **RSE Policy**

**This policy is a result of a collaborative process involving school staff, parents and Board of Management of Scoil Bhríde Mionloch. This policy was formulated in consultation with Lisa Noone, PDST Facilitator for Health and Wellbeing.**

**Enrolment:** Co-educational

**School Ethos/ Philosophy:** Scoil Bhríde, Mionloch is a Catholic National School located in the village of Menlo in Galway city. We are a Gaeltacht school.

### **Definition of RSE:**

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.

### **Context:**

All of the RSE will be delivered within the context of SPHE. SPHE looks at issues such as relationships within home and in school, building self-esteem, learning skills of communication, decision making and expressing feelings in an appropriate way. The teaching and learning of SPHE will be timetabled (1/2 hour per week) on our curriculum from September 2015. Sensitive (sexual) issues will be covered within the Strand Units 'Taking Care of my Body,' 'Growing and Changing,' and 'Safety and Protection.'

**\*It is important to teach RSE in the context of SPHE as children acquire a knowledge and understanding of human relationships and sexuality through processes which will**

**enable them to form values and establish behaviours within a moral, spiritual and social framework.\*** (Ref RSE in the Context of SPHE, 2007)

**Current RSE Provision:**

**The school currently provides for the delivery of sensitive issues - See appendix (RSE for parents sheet)**

**Resources:**

The school currently uses the following resources-Busy Bodies, Walk Tall, Making the Links, Different Families – Same Love LGBT, Stay Safe Programme, Circle Time Jenny Mosley, Friends for Life, Zippy’s Friend.

**Aims:**

The aims of RSE are –

- 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 acquire an understanding of, and 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.

(SPHE Curriculum Guidelines Pg. 9 and 10)

**Management and Organisation:**

- In this context parents are acknowledged as primary educators of their children and the school will work in a supportive role.
- All content objectives will be covered by the time the children leave 6<sup>th</sup> Class.
- Teachers' rights to opt out from teaching the sensitive sexual issues will be respected.
- If no member of staff is available to teach the sensitive sexual issues the Board of Management will make the appropriate arrangements
- A parent's right to withdraw a pupil from the process will be respected on the understanding that the parent is taking full responsibility for this aspect of education themselves. It is the responsibility of the parent to inform the school of this decision. ( in writing)
- Should a pupil require information that is not in line with the curriculum content and considered not to be age appropriate for the general body of pupils the school will defer these for discussion at home
- An outline of lessons will be available to parents in the office before the commencement of the programme each year.

**Review:**

The RSE Policy and Programme will be reviewed in Spring 2018.

**Resources:**

RSE Manuals  
DVDs  
Library Books  
Resource material for parents  
Invited speakers  
Busy Bodies

**This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on:** \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Principal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Review:**

Date of next review: \_\_\_\_\_

