



Coláiste Cholmcille

Ballyshannon

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SCHOOL

Coláiste Cholmcille
Ballyshannon
Co Donegal

Community School

Enrolment approx. 670

REVIEW

The policy was reviewed on 21/3/2012 and updated as a result of the review. The members of the 2012 review committee were: Jimmy Keogh, Geraldine Diver, Sheila Coyne, Pauline Kilfeather, Geraldine Breslin, Ann Drummond and Abina Barrett.

The policy was subsequently reviewed on 22/12/2015 by Bernie Finan, Sheila Coyne, Philip O Reilly, Carol Gardiner and Abina Barrett.

PHILOSOPHY

Coláiste Cholmcille is a community which respects the individual's rights and self-worth and aims to provide a happy and safe environment in which the individual may achieve her/his spiritual, academic and personal potential in order to develop all positive aspects of the individual and the community.

DEFINITION OF RSE

RSE aims to provide opportunities for children and young people to learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help them think and act in a moral, caring and responsible way.

RELATIONSHIP OF RSE TO SPHE

'In deciding to include a Relationships and Sexuality Education programme (RSE) as part of Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) in school curricula, the right and duty of parents to provide for the religious, moral, intellectual, physical and social education of their children is acknowledged. While the home is the natural environment in which RSE takes place most parents look to the schools for support in fulfilling their obligations to their children in this area of development. Consequently the school is seen as

playing a supportive and complementary role to the home in this task. It is envisaged that this will be achieved by involving parents with management and teachers and, where appropriate, with pupils, in a collaborative exercise towards school policy development’.

Dept. of Ed. Circular M4/95 RSE May’95

In Coláiste Cholmcille the RSE Programme will be delivered within the context of our school’s SPHE Programme. SPHE provides students with a unique opportunity to develop skills and competencies, to learn about themselves, to care for themselves and others and to make informed decisions about their health, their personal lives and their social development. SPHE develops the work of the school in promoting the health and well-being of students.

Within this context, RSE aims specifically to provide structured opportunities for students to 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.

RSE has as its specific aims:

- to help young people understand and develop friendships and relationships
- to promote an understanding of sexuality
- to promote a positive attitude to one’s own sexuality and to one’s relationships with others
- to promote a knowledge of and respect for reproduction
- to enable young people to develop attitudes and values towards their sexuality in a moral, spiritual and social framework

The RSE Policy aims to maintain a consistency and cohesiveness within the school’s overall plan. This policy takes into consideration the following policies: Child Protection, School Guidance and Anti-Bullying.

GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION OF RSE IN COLÁISTE CHOLMCILLE

- Coláiste Cholmcille recognises that RSE has cross-curricular links with subjects such as Religious Education, Home Economics, Science, Biology, Physical Education, CSPE and English.
- The RSE component will take six timetabled periods over each school year in Junior Cycle SPHE. At Senior Cycle the topics outlined in the DES programme will be covered during RE.
- The programme will be in line with the NCCA Curriculum and Guidelines. The curriculum and the guidelines are available in the school for parents who wish to see them.
- In delivering the programme teachers will show sensitivity to the needs of the group and the school.

- The school's management will provide a commitment to the programme by facilitating its implementation through teacher recruitment and training, ongoing in-service, timetabling and consultation and the provision of appropriate RSE teaching material.
- The approach to teaching of topics within RSE will involve giving students clear information in an age-appropriate, clear manner, looking at all sides of the issues in a non-directive way. The approach aims to build up students' self-esteem and help them to learn to communicate, make decisions and express feelings in an appropriate way.
- If parents choose to provide RSE at home their rights as parents with regards their children's participation will be respected.
- Where appropriate, any parent education programme in RSE, organised by the Parents' Association, will be supported by the school.

HOW THE RSE POLICY WAS DRAWN UP

The members of the RSE policy committee were: Sr Stephanie, Fr O Fearraí (Board of Management), Pauline McCabe, Kathleen O'Neill (Parents' Association), Jimmy Keogh (Principal), Ann Drummond (teacher), Abina Barrett (teacher).

The policy was discussed by the Parents' Association and the Student Council and amended in the light of suggestions from these groups. In Sept. 2005 the policy was approved by the Board of Management and ratified by the staff of Coláiste Cholmcille.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed at regular intervals.