



R.S.E. POLICY FOR LISNAGRY N.S.

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### ▪ **School Details**

- Name: Lisnagry National School
- Address: School Road, Lisnagry, Co. Limerick.
- Phone Number: 061-331011
- Enrolment Numbers: 312

### ▪ **Introductory Statement & Rationale**

This policy statement is an approved approach to the teaching of RSE in Lisnagry NS. It was developed by staff and the Board of Management. It was developed to inform teachers and parents as to what material is covered in the RSE programme within SPHE.

- Lisnagry National School is a Roman Catholic School (established in connection with the Minister for Education) which aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and other people. The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by a belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Catholic school provides Religious education of those Catholic pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. Our school fosters the notion of inclusivity of all and is non-discriminatory. Lisnagry National School meets the 9 grounds as stated in the Equal Status Act 2000 and is mindful at all times to ensure that discrimination is prohibited.
  
- Lisnagry NS is a Catholic school and therefore all policies developed are implemented in ways which are in keeping with the ethos of the school. The ethos of the school is characterised by the following:
  - Sensitive to reality of our children's lives in a changing world
  - Mutual respect between all partners in education
  - Child-centred
  - Aims to ensure each child reaches full potential in the holistic sense
  - Hopes that children are equipped with high self-esteem to enable them to go to live happy and fulfilled lives

▪ **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 (p.4 Going Forward Together Parents Information Booklet)

▪ **Current Provision Included in the school curriculum is:**

- SPHE
- Use of the RSE Manual and Busy Bodies DVD and Busy Bodies Booklet
- Religious Education through the Alive O Programme and Grow in Love
- An outside speaker is currently invited to work with sixth class until the RSE programme has been fully implemented in the school. When the outside speaker visits the school parents are invited to attend with their children. The outside speaker visits in the Spring term. Teacher remains in classroom as per Circular 22/10

▪ **Aims of our RSE programme**

- To help young people develop healthy friendships and relationships
- To promote a healthy attitude to sexuality and to relationships
- To enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well-being of the child
- 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- Fifth and Sixth Class
- To understand the physical changes taking place with the onset of puberty- Senior Classes
- 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

▪ **Guidelines for the Management and Organisation of RSE in our School**

- Curriculum Matters:
- Curriculum Content –The curriculum by NCCA will be followed as published, and will be taught in Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> class. . All resources used will be in keeping with the ethos of the school and the policy. Each class teacher will teach the content for their class level.
- When an outside speaker is used, the class teacher is responsible for making them aware of school policy and that teacher will sit in during the lesson as per Circular 22/2010.

**Topics covered up to 2<sup>nd</sup> class include:**

- Keeping Safe
- Bodily changes during growth and birth (birth to 9)
- Making age appropriate choices
- Appreciating family life
- Recognising and expressing feelings
- Self care, hygiene, diet, exercise and sleep
- Expressing opinions and listening to others
- Naming the parts of the male/ female body using appropriate anatomical terms (Junior/ Senior Infants)
- Naming the parts of the male/ female body using appropriate anatomical terms and identify some of their functions (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>)

**Topics from 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sixth include:**

- Bodily changes
- Healthy eating, personal hygiene, exercise
- Keeping Safe
- Expressing Feelings
- Family relationships
- Making healthy and responsible decisions
- Forming Friendships
- Discuss the stages and sequence of development of the human baby in the womb( Fourth class)
- Changes that occur in boys and girls with the onset of puberty (Fifth and Sixth Class)
- Reproductive system of male/female adults (Fifth and Sixth Class)
- Understanding sexual intercourse, conception and birth within the context of a committed loving relationship.(Fifth and Sixth Class)
- **Organisational Matters:**
  - Parents will be advised upon enrolment, of the RSE Curriculum and policy and the Stay Safe Programme, both mandatory for the school to implement. Each year prior to the implementation of these programmes parents will be notified in the school newsletter.
  - If children are withdrawn by their parents, they must give a notice in writing to the school principal that they are withdrawing their child.
  - With regard to matters of a confidential nature, the school cannot take any responsibility for what is discussed outside of the classroom.
  - Any teacher has the right to opt-out from teaching the sexually sensitive issues in RSE. It is responsibility of Board of Management to ensure that the curriculum will be taught to the children by another teacher or an outside speaker.
  - Parents are invited/welcome to view the curriculum and may speak to the class teacher if they have any concerns.

➤ **Dealing with Questions:**

All questions answered will reflect the parameters of the curriculum. Questions to the teacher may be written or oral within the group setting and answered within the boundaries of the curriculum and policy. Any questions asked by the children that are judged to be outside of the lesson content, the teacher will refer the child to their parents or will explain that this will be covered at second level.

▪ **Provision for Ongoing Support**

- Parents welcome to view curriculum if they wish
- Contact will be made with parents prior to the teaching of these lessons in school and ongoing contact will be maintained through use of the 'home-school' link pages throughout the programme.
- Parents have the primary responsibility for educating their children in sexual matters. The school RSE programme acts as a support only to parents, and parents retain the right to withdraw their children from classes.

▪ **Links to other policy areas**

- Child Protection Policy

Child Protection

The school follows the DES child protection guidelines and has a child protection policy with a Designated Liaison Person. In cases of disclosure, the DLP will follow the procedures as set out in Children First.

- SPHE Policy

▪ **Review**

This policy will be reviewed after the initial 12<sup>th</sup> months, and every two years thereafter. This policy will also be reviewed should a need arise. Parents and staff will be informed if any amendments are made.