



Castlebar School Relationship and Sex Education Policy

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1. Introduction

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is part of Castlebar School's Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. In this document relationship and Sex Education is defined as: 'learning about physical, moral and emotional development'. It is about understanding the importance of stable and loving relationships; respect, love and care for one another. The aim of Relationships Education is to put in place the building blocks needed for positive and safe relationships of all kinds; starting with family and friends and moving on to other kinds of relationships including those we may encounter online. While Sex Education is used to inform pupils about sexual issues this is done with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibilities. Also in a way that will enable the pupils to explore and ask questions. Relationship and Sex Education is not used as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation. Staff have received training from 'Image in Action' who have skilled people in use of resources and ideas to present the concepts to children with MLD/SLD. The PSHE curriculum map outlines the teaching of 'Relationships' (RSE) from Yellow department through to the year 6 children in Purple department; which support pupils to be safe, happy and prepared for a life beyond their years at Castlebar. We are committed to delivering Relationships and Sex Education sensitively and inclusively including content which is age appropriate, respectful of all backgrounds and which takes into consideration the developmental needs and understanding of our pupils. Specific Sex Education lessons take place in the Summer term of Year 6.

2. Aims and Objectives

To teach pupils about:

- the physical development of their bodies as they grow and change into adults including menstruation
- gender awareness
- how to understand their sexual feelings and behaviour
- concerns and misconceptions
- respect for their own bodies
- body parts and concepts of public and private
- acceptable behaviour in public/private places
- the importance of family life
- different types of relationships e.g. friends, family, and marriage
- relationship issues and the effects of relationships on our emotions e.g. unhealthy relationships
- strategies to reduce the risk of exploitation and abuse
- respect for the views of others

3. Content

Relationship and Sex Education at Castlebar School is taught within the content of the school's aims and values. We give pupils information about sex and relationships with an awareness of the moral code and values which underpin all the work in the school. RSE as an integrated part of our work to ensure safeguarding and positive well-being for all our pupils.

In particular we teach relationship and Sex Education in the context of:-

- loving relationships and family life

- wider social, personal, spiritual and moral education processes
- pupils learning about their responsibilities to others
- pupils learning to build positive relationships with others involving trust and respect

4. Organisation

All pupils at Castlebar School are taught how to develop personal care skills; a healthy life style; positive relationships and citizenship within the delivery of the personal, social and health curriculum. Through other subject areas such as physical education and science, pupils are also taught about the physical development of their bodies, how it changes and grows. However, specific Relationship and Sex Education is taught to the Year 6 pupils in their final year at the school, when they may have reached puberty.

A planned programme covering such topics as puberty, menstruation and masturbation for the boys will be delivered by the Year 6 staff in collaboration with the Assistant Headteacher and the PSHE co-ordinator. A female member of staff will deliver the programme to the girls and a male member of staff will deliver the programme to the boys. The planned programme of activities will be supported by advice and materials from the 'image in Action' project.

All lessons are planned with due regard for the emotional and social development of all pupils.

A meeting is arranged with the Parents/Carers of the pupils in Year 6 to discuss the planned programme of relationship and Sex Education lessons; also to explain the content of the lessons; view materials to be used and raise any issues of concern.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

PSHE co-ordinator/senior manager to monitor and evaluate the delivery of relationship and Sex Education through:

- written and verbal feedback from pupils, parents and support staff involved in the Sex Education lessons
- the practical and verbal activities the pupils complete throughout the planned programme of relationship and sex education
- the level of attendance by parents/carers at the Parents meeting
- to keep up to date with health initiatives, resources and materials related to relationship and Sex Education

The Governors also monitor and evaluate the delivery of the sex and education relationship policy through the Pupil and Parents Committee.

6. Role of Parents/Carers

The School is fully aware that the primary role in children's relationship and Sex Education lies with parents and carers. Castlebar School wishes to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents/carers of the pupils at the school (and complement what parents are teaching pupils in the home) through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

In promoting this objective the school:

- informs parents/carers about the school relationship and Sex Education policy and practice
- informs parents/carers what pupils will be taught and when and to clearly communicate the fact that parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn for some or all of Sex Education delivered as part of statutory RSE.
- responds to any questions/concerns parents/carers may have about the relationship and Sex Education of their child

- informs parents/carers of best known practices with regard to relationship and Sex Education, so that teaching in school supports key messages parents/carers give to their child at home. The School believes that through this mutual exchange of knowledge and information pupils will benefit from being given consistent messages about their changing body and their increasing responsibilities.

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from the planned programme of Sex Education lessons that are taught in Year 6. However, if they wish to do so then the parents/carer must meet with the Headteacher to make clear their concerns within the planned programme of Sex Education lessons. It is now statutory guidance that primary schools must comply with a parent's wish to withdraw their child from Sex Education beyond the content covered in the National Curriculum for Science.

7. Role of Headteacher/Governors

The role of the Headteacher and governors is:

- to inform staff, parents/carers of the relationship and Sex Education policy
- to ensure that the policy is effectively implemented
- to ensure that staff are given sufficient training so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity
- to liaise with external agencies regarding the school's relationship and Sex Education programme
- Governors and Headteacher to monitor relationship and sex policy
- Headteacher and Governors to give serious consideration to any comments or concerns raised by parents/carers about the relationship and Sex Education programme. To record all comments and concerns and to keep a written record.

8. Confidentiality

At Castlebar School Sex Education lessons are conducted in a sensitive manner and in total confidence. However, if a pupil makes a reference to being involved or likely to be involved in sexual activity then the member of staff will take the matter seriously, dealing with it as a child protection issue. The Headteacher as the Child Protection Officer will then be informed and will deal with the matter in the appropriate way.

CASTLEBAR SCHOOL

March 2019

RATIFIED BY THE GOVERNING BODY ON: 10/05/2019

REVIEW DATE: Summer 2020
