

St. John the Baptist Primary School

Bunscoil Eoin Baiste



Relationships and Sexuality Policy

Policy Review

Date Agreed by Board of Governors: February 2026

Next Review Date: February 2029

Signed by Chair of Governors:

Date:

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Introduction:

In line with the Education (NI) Order 2006 Relationships and Sexuality Education issues are covered through the Personal Development and Mutual Understanding area of learning of the NI Curriculum Primary.

In St John the Baptist Primary School Relationships and Sexuality Education is “more than simply educating children about biological sexual reproduction. It encompasses:

- The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills and
- The development of attitudes, beliefs and values about sexual identity, relationships and intimacy.” (CCEA Guidance 2015)

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, the Pastoral Care Policy, the e-Safety Policy, Personal Development and Mutual Understanding Scheme of Work and Religion Scheme of Work.

Aims of Policy:

This policy reflects the ethos of our school and aims to provide all children in St John the Baptist Primary School with opportunities to:

- Enhance their personal development, self-esteem and well-being
- Foster an understanding of, and a healthy attitude towards, human sexuality and relationships
- Value themselves as unique individuals
- Respect themselves and others
- Learn about friendships and healthy relationships
- Recognise and communicate their feelings and emotions appropriately
- Build the foundations for developing more personal relationships in later life
- Learn about the changes that occur as they progress towards adolescence
- Learn about keeping themselves safe and know what to do or who to go to if they feel unsafe

Context:

The Northern Ireland Curriculum aims to “empower young people to realise their potential and to make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives. At the heart of the curriculum lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and for operating effectively in society.” (CCEA The NI Curriculum Primary 2007)

In St John the Baptist Primary School, we ensure that Relationships and Sexuality Education can be explored across the curriculum through connected learning themes, allowing children to explore sensitive and complex age-appropriate issues through a variety of different lenses, thus developing an appreciation of a range of different viewpoints and the reasons why people hold them.

All children in St John the Baptist Primary School have the right to an education that adequately prepares them for adult life regardless of their age, gender, culture, sexual orientation, disability, religion or social class.

The Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy will meet the needs of all children. As maturity is not always determined by chronological age, teachers are sympathetic to the personal and emotional circumstances of each pupil. They are aware of, and take account of, the range of the children's knowledge, differing attitudes and beliefs, along with the children's capacity to understand issues. This is particularly important for children with special educational needs.

The Role of the Governors

The Governors support the Principal and staff in fostering the development of the RSE Policy. They will facilitate a consultation process involving all stakeholders. They will seek to accommodate and be sensitive of the religious and cultural beliefs of teachers and parents while fulfilling their responsibility to ensure the availability of adequate RSE provision for all children.

The Role of the Principal

A planned, structured and coherent approach to RSE will be developed throughout the school. The Principal with the Designated Teacher for Child Protection will arrange and oversee the development of this work.

The Role of the Teachers

The class teacher's role is considered to be complementary to the responsibility of parents. In planning for the delivery of RSE through connected learning teachers will consider the individual needs, age, maturity and family background of the children in their class. Teachers will use the CCEA resource, Living Learning Together to support their RSE work, keeping always under consideration that the resources:

- Reflect the ethos of the school
- Are age appropriate, inclusive and sensitive to the children's needs and experiences
- Are factually accurate and up-to-date and
- Make clear distinctions between fact and opinion.

The teachers will ensure that the classroom is a safe, secure, respectful and inclusive environment where children can express their feelings and opinions and participate confidently and freely without embarrassment or judgement. All teachers will use correct biological terms for the body.

The Primary 7 children may avail of the Love for Life, NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Programme, Bee Safe delivered by PSNI, Internet Safety, Flourish Programme and Healthy Me provided by Action Mental Health.

The Role of Parents

RSE is a life-long learning process which begins at home. Parents will be consulted and invited to respond to the draft policy before publication. Throughout the lifetime of the policy St John the Baptist Primary School will ensure parents receive accurate and up-to-date information.

Parents have the right to have their children educated in accordance with their wishes. If a parent chooses to withdraw their child from RSE they should consider the social and emotional effects of being excluded, as well as the likelihood that the child will hear their peers' version of what happened or what was discussed in the class, rather than the safe and reliable source of the teacher's. Ultimately, however, the school will respect the parent's wishes and requests notification of withdrawal in writing. Should a parent request their child to be withdrawn from RSE lessons arrangements will be made for the child to join another class during this time.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be kept under review by the Governors, Principal and Staff and revised as appropriate.

A copy of the policy will be distributed to all parents during the consultation period and will be available on the school website or on request, in writing, from the Principal.

Resources

Living Learning Together Publications

Foundation Stage

http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk/curriculum_microsite/pdmu/living_learning_together/year1.asp

http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk/curriculum_microsite/pdmu/living_learning_together/year2.asp

KS1

http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk/curriculum_microsite/pdmu/living_learning_together/year3.asp

http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk/curriculum_microsite/pdmu/living_learning_together/year4.asp

KS2

http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk/curriculum_microsite/pdmu/living_learning_together/year5.asp

http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk/curriculum_microsite/pdmu/living_learning_together/year6.asp

http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk/curriculum_microsite/pdmu/living_learning_together/year7.asp

PDMU Information

Foundation Stage

http://ccea.org.uk/curriculum/foundation_stage/areas_learning/personal_development_mutual_understanding

KS1 and KS2

http://ccea.org.uk/curriculum/key_stage_1_2/areas_learning/personal_development_mutual_understanding

RSE Primary Guidance CCEA

ccea.org.uk/curriculum/rse_primary

ccea.org.uk/.../new_guidance_rse_and_drugs_education_published

NI Curriculum Primary

ccea.org.uk/.../fs_northern_ireland_curriculum_primary.pdf

Flourish Programme

The provision of the Flourish programme will advise and direct the future RSE curriculum for all primary schools within the Catholic sector. The programme is available for staff, parents, and carers to access as a free online resource at <https://www.catholiceducation-ni.org/about-us/rse-resources/>

The core gospel values reflected in the Flourish programme are:

- That human life is a gift from God and must be protected. The children are encouraged to wonder and marvel at the miracle of birth and to consider the care and love that a baby needs to thrive.
- Each person must be treated with dignity. Bullying and disrespect of all kinds are reflected on in a Christian context.
- Respect, mercy and forgiveness are central. Forgiving ourselves for making mistakes and showing the same understanding to others.
- Integrity to our beliefs. Parents, teachers and students, through their discussions, help establish beliefs which children can articulate and stand over when they are faced with difficult decisions.
- Respect for others and their beliefs. Children are encouraged to listen and respect others' right to their traditions and points of view.

External Agencies *as appropriate*

Love for Life

NSPCC

PSNI

Action Mental Health

An Outline of RSE Programme in St John the Baptist Primary School

Suggested Resources: Living Learning Together Resources; Grow in Love RE Programme and the Flourish Programme

Year Group	Content
Primary 1 / Rang 1	Class Rules/School Rules/Play Safely Outdoor Rules Living Learning Together – Unit One: There's No-one Quite Like Me Unit Two: Sometimes I Feel Unit Three: Taking Care of Me Unit Four: Belonging and Co-operating Unit Five: Caring and Sharing Unit Six: You and Me Unit Seven: Living Together Anti-Bullying Week NSPCC 'Speak Out Stay Safe' Assembly Healthy Break Policy Visit from Community Paramedic Safer Internet Day PANTS Programme Flourish Monthly Safeguarding Assembly
Primary 2 / Rang 2	Class Rules/School Rules/Play Safely Outdoor Rules Living Learning Together – Unit One: Wonderful Me! Unit Two: How Do I Feel? Unit Three: Keeping Healthy, Staying Safe Unit Four: Getting Along with Others Unit Five: I am Learning to... Unit Six: Grace and Tracey – Similarities and Differences between groups of people Unit Seven: Where I Live – learning to live as a member of a community Grow in Love themes Anti-Bullying Week NSPCC 'Speak Out Stay Safe' Assembly NSPCC – Talk Pants Healthy Break Policy Ourselves Programme - Young Enterprise Healthy Living Workshop – Action Cancer Safer Internet Day PANTS Programme Flourish Monthly Safeguarding Assembly
Primary 3 / Rang 3	Class Rules/School Rules Living Learning Together – Unit One: Getting to Know Me Unit Two: Feeling Good, Feeling Sad Unit Three: Take Care, Be Safe Unit Four: Families! Unit Five: Why Should I?

	Unit Six: Living with Difference Unit Seven: I belong! Anti-Bullying Week NSPCC 'Speak Out Stay Safe' Assembly Healthy Break Policy Young Enterprise Programme Learning Mentor - SOLAS/Reach – Counselling Service Safer Internet Day PANTS Programme Flourish Monthly Safeguarding Assembly
Primary 4 / Rang 4	Class Rules/School Rules Living Learning Together – Unit One: The Real Me Unit Two: Difficult Feelings Unit Three: Growing Means Changing Unit Four: Friendships Unit Five: Money Matters Unit Six: I am... You are... We can Unit Seven: Who Influences Me? Anti-Bullying Week NSPCC 'Speak Out Stay Safe' Assembly Learning Mentor - SOLAS/Reach – Counselling Service Healthy Break Policy Safer Internet Day PANTS Programme Flourish Monthly Safeguarding Assembly HIP psychology
Primary 4 / Rang 4 (cont)	Class Rules/School Rules Living Learning Together – Unit One: The Real Me Unit Two: Difficult Feelings Unit Three: Growing Means Changing Unit Four: Friendships Unit Five: Money Matters Unit Six: I am... You are... We can Unit Seven: Who Influences Me? Anti-Bullying Week NSPCC 'Speak Out Stay Safe' Assembly Learning Mentor - SOLAS/Reach – Counselling Service Healthy Break Policy Safer Internet Day PANTS Programme Flourish Monthly Safeguarding Assembly HIP psychology
Primary 5 / Rang 5	Class Rules/School Rules Living Learning Together – Unit One: Myself and My Attributes Unit Two: I have Feelings Unit Three: Stay Safe and Healthy Unit Four: Ups and Downs Unit Five: Valuing Self and Others Unit Six: Learning More about Others Unit Seven: Making Good Choices Fire Safety Presentation Anti-Bullying Week NSPCC 'Speak Out Stay Safe' Assembly Healthy Break Policy Learning Mentor – SOLAS/Reach – Counselling Service Gimme Five Programme – Five Steps to Mental Well-Being Safer Internet Day PANTS Programme Flourish Monthly Safeguarding Assembly HIP psychology
Primary 6 / Rang 6	Class Rules/School Rules Living Learning Together –

	<p>Unit One: Who Am I? Unit Two: Dealing With Feelings Unit Three: Healthy Habits Unit Four: Working at Harmony Unit Five: Speaking Up for Me Unit Six: Check It Out First Unit Seven: Decisions! Decisions! Anti-Bullying Week REIM – Online Safety Workshop NSPCC ‘Speak Out Stay Safe’ Assembly/ Workshop Healthy Break Policy Learning Mentor - SOLAS/Reach – Counselling Service Action Mental Health/Well-Being Safer Internet Day PANTS Programme Flourish Monthly Safeguarding Assembly HIP psychology</p>
Primary 7 / Rang 7	<p>Class Rules/School Rules Living Learning Together – Unit One: What Makes Me Me? Unit Two: Thinking and Feeling Unit Three: Fit for the Future Unit Four: Moving On Unit Five: Says Who? Unit Six: Who Cares? Unit Seven: New Horizons Anti-Bullying Week Preparation for School Transition NSPCC ‘Speak Out Stay Safe’ Assembly/ Workshop Bee Safe Activity Day Love For Life Moving On.... Moving Up (Education Welfare Service Transition Programme) Cycling Proficiency Scheme Healthy Break Policy Learning Mentor - SOLAS/Reach – Counselling Service Action Mental Health/Well-Being Safer Internet Day PANTS Programme Flourish Monthly Safeguarding Assembly HIP psychology</p>
Primary 7 / Rang 7 (cont)	