



**CLONKEEN COLLEGE,
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**Policy on Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.)
and on
Relationships and Sexuality Education (R.S.E.).**

Mission Statement:

Clonkeen College is a voluntary Catholic secondary school, where each individual and group within the school community is encouraged and facilitated to contribute to the creation of a caring, supportive and inclusive educational environment, conducive to developing the diverse talents of all the participants.

Rationale.

The general aim of education is to contribute towards the development of the individual, including the aesthetic, cultural, emotional, intellectual, moral, physical, political, religious, social and spiritual development for personal and for family life, for living in the community and for leisure. (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.)

We at Clonkeen College recognise that parents are the first educators of their children. We aim to support them in this important work.

Goals of the Policy.

The school ethos is one of respect for self and others and the importance of making a positive contribution to the creation of the type of school community envisaged in the Mission Statement. The teaching of RSE aims to give expression to these concepts in the area of sexuality and relationships.

Through the Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.) programme we strive to;

- Help our young people reach their full potential,
- Provide them with opportunities to develop the skills and capabilities necessary to learn about themselves, to care for themselves and others,
- Help our students to make informed decisions about their health, personal lives and social development.

R.S.E. aims to provide opportunities for our young people to develop a positive sense of self-awareness, the skills for building and maintaining self-esteem and to learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help them think and act in a moral, spiritual, caring and responsible way.

Content of the Policy.

1. Our S.P.H.E. programme includes a wide range of topics such as personal development, healthy eating, alcohol, smoking, drugs, environmental issues, safety and social responsibility as well as Relationship and Sexuality Education.
2. R.S.E. takes place within the Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.) programme and is supported by other subject areas, such as Science, Biology, Religious Education, Physical Education (P.E.), Civic Social, and Political Education (C.S.P.E.)

3. R.S.E. is presented in ways that give our young people opportunities to discuss attitudes, beliefs and values and to develop the skills necessary to make informed moral decisions about their lives.
4. Parents should inform the Principal of any factors that might be relevant to a student's feelings or attitudes in the R.S.E. class so that the teacher may be prepared to deal with or avoid sensitive issues. R.S.E. teachers need to be briefed by the Principal or Guidance Teacher about difficulties a student may have when planning class content and approach.
5. The content of the R.S.E. programmes is based around three themes:
 - 1) Human Growth and Development
 - 2) Human Sexuality
 - 3) Human Relationships

Each theme is developed in an age appropriate manner during Junior and Senior Cycle in accordance with the guidelines issued by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (N.C.C.A.) and in accordance with the Mission Statement and aims of our school.

6. R.S.E. course content will be available to parents who would like more information.
7. Teachers have opportunities for in-service in S.P.H.E. and R.S.E. and are provided with relevant resources.
8. The school recognises the right of parents to withdraw their child/children from all or part of the R.S.E. programme. Application to do so must be made in writing to the Principal of the school, stating the reasons for so doing.

Roles and Responsibilities.

Board of Management.

- To ensure that the policy is developed in consultation with teachers and parents,
- To ensure that the policy is implemented.

Principal and Deputy Principal.

- To make provision in the timetable for S.P.H.E. classes,
- To provide the resources necessary.

Teaching Staff.

- To implement the policy

Reviewing the Policy.

- Any member of the school community may make submissions to the Board of Management at any time regarding the content of the policy.
- The programme will be evaluated regularly and any submissions taken into account.

Ratified by the Board of Management December 7th 2004.