

S.P.H.E.

Our School Philosophy

St Patrick's School is a Roman Catholic School, which respects and accommodates pupils from other denominations. It recognises the uniqueness of each child. It seeks to develop children spiritually and morally and to foster in each child a Christian ethical sense that will enable him/her to acquire values on which to base choices and form attitudes.

It endeavours to equip children with the knowledge and skills that will serve them, not only in their lives as children, but later as adults.

Definition of SPHE

Social, personal and health education provides particular opportunities to foster the personal development, health and well-being of the child and to help him/her to create and maintain supportive relationships and become an active and responsible citizen in society.

Definition of RSE

RSE encompasses the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the development of attitudes, beliefs and values about relationships, sexual identity and intimacy. It seeks to provide children with opportunities to acquire knowledge and understanding of relationships and human sexuality, through processes which will enable them to form values and establish behaviours within a moral, spiritual and social framework.

Management and Organisation

Relationships and sexuality education (RSE) is an integral part of Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and is taught in this context. The curriculum is spiral in nature (i.e. similar content is revisited at different stages throughout the child's time at school) and is delivered age appropriately. RSE specific education (or core RSE education) is covered in the strand units "Taking Care of my Body" and "Growing and Changing"

and “Safety and Protection.” Accord support parents and staff with delivery of the 5th/6th class programme.

The content is available for parents to view, by appointment, at the school. Parents have the right to withdraw their child/ children from the RSE classes, should they wish.

Parental Involvement

It is the primary responsibility of parents to educate their children with regard to relationships and sexuality. In the school, ours is a supporting role in offering the appropriate moral and sexual education to the children.

The provision of outside professional help is organised by the school in conjunction with the PA.

Any questions, which arise during classroom teaching and/or delivery of a programme by an outside professional and which are outside of the content objectives, are referred to parents. Parents are welcome to review materials and class teachers will be available to deal with any of their questions or concerns.

Stay Safe

Stay Safe is a compulsory module of the SPHE curriculum in primary schools. We cover the programme in Senior Infants, 2nd, 4th & 6th Classes. There are parental supports available on www.staysafe.ie.

Resources to be used:

RSE Programme

Stay Safe Programme

Walk Tall Programme

Accord Talks