



# Scoil Maelruain Junior

Old Bawn Ave,

Tallaght

Dublin 24

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School Roll Number: 19462T

[www.scoilmaelruainjunior.org](http://www.scoilmaelruainjunior.org)



## Draft Relationships and Sexuality Education(RSE) Policy

Date	February 2023
Initial Draft	November 2022
Parent Consultation	
Ratified by the Board of Management	

**This is a working continuous document**

**School:** Scoil Maelruain Junior  
Old Bawn Avenue  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24

**Date:** February 2023

**Principal:** Claire Durr

### **Context:**

Scoil Maelruain Junior is a Catholic co-educational primary school under the patronage of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. It is located in the parish of Tallaght, Dublin 24. There are 384 pupils from Infants to Second Class enrolled in the school. There are 25 teachers on staff including an Administrative Principal, Teaching Deputy Principal as well as a number of special needs assistants and ancillary staff. We have a School Completion Programme with associated staffing.

Learning about Relationships and Sexuality is a lifelong process. Children learn about relationships and sexuality primarily from their parents. The school based Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) programme complements and supports what children are learning at home. The Department of Education and Skills requires all schools to teach RSE and to have an RSE policy. This school policy will ensure that RSE is taught in a way that reflects the core values and ethos of the school. RSE-specific education or core RSE education (sensitive lessons) belong to the strand units Taking Care of My Body and Growing and Changing.

### **Introductory Statement & Rationale**

This policy statement outlines our approach to the teaching of RSE in Scoil Maelruain Junior. This policy informs teachers and parents of (i) the RSE content that is taught at each class level and (ii) outlines the organisation and management of the RSE programme in Scoil Maelruain Junior. RSE is taught in accordance with the curriculum guidelines of the Department of Education and in the context of the Catholic ethos and philosophy of the school.

### **Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) & Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE):**

The SPHE curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to learn basic personal and social skills which foster integrity, self-confidence and self-esteem, while nurturing sensitivity to the rights and feelings of others. The Stay Safe Programme is a component of SPHE and is taught under the strand unit 'Personal Safety'. This programme teaches personal safety skills and helps children to deal with upsetting, unsafe or frightening situations.

RSE is an integral part of SPHE. The RSE programme is taught within the context of the SPHE curriculum ... Taking Care of My Body and Growing and Changing..... for all class levels. RSE aims to provide opportunities for pupils to learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help them think and act in a moral, caring and responsible way.

### **Aims of our Relationship and Sexuality Education programme:**

- To enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well-being of each child.

- To help young people develop healthy friendships and relationships.
- To provide children with language through which they may seek clarification, ask questions and discuss all aspects of their growth and development.
- To foster an understanding of, and a healthy attitude to, human sexuality and relationships in a moral, spiritual and social framework.
- To develop and promote in the child a sense of wonder and awe at the process of birth and new life.
- To enhance the capacity of the child to resist sexual exploitation and abuse.

### **Organisation of RSE**

- RSE lessons, as per the curriculum guidelines, are taught from Infants to 2nd Class by the class teacher.
- Aspects of the SPHE and RSE curriculum may also be integrated with other curricular areas and with Wellbeing Programmes.
- Parents are acknowledged as the primary educators of their children and the school works in partnership with parents in the education process.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their child from specific, sensitive lessons on the understanding that they take full responsibility for this aspect of their child's education themselves.
- In this event, parents should discuss their concerns with the class teacher and/or school principal, and submit in writing that they wish their child to be withdrawn from a lesson/s and this will be recorded on Aladdin.
- Pupils are introduced to all aspects of the RSE Programme at an age appropriate level, in accordance with the curriculum guidelines
- Teachers model appropriate vocabulary relating to sexuality, growing up, physical changes, parts of the body and feelings.
- Teachers do not give or seek personal information.
- Pupils are encouraged to discuss the learning outcomes of the RSE lessons with their parents/guardians.
- Respect for personal privacy and for personal information is emphasised with the pupils. Pupils are encouraged to use 'a person I know' in place of naming a person when sharing personal information.
- Teachers will encourage pupils to come to them in private if they would like to discuss an aspect of the lesson that they may not be comfortable with discussing in front of their peers.
- If a child makes a disclosure to a teacher that the teacher feels a parent needs to be aware of they will contact the parent in question.
- If a child makes a disclosure to a teacher that the teacher feels is a child protection disclosure, they are mandated to report it to the Designated Liaison Person (Claire Durr) or the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Aideen Butler) if the Designated Liaison Person is not on the school premises.
- Teachers are aware of the learning needs of their pupils and differentiate the RSE lessons as appropriate to ensure that pupils with additional needs can learn at their level of understanding.

- The Principal/Deputy Principal and SPHE Coordinator make the practical arrangements regarding the teaching of the RSE programme and the deployment of teaching staff.
- Account will be taken to support children with special educational needs when planning and delivering these lessons. This support may involve including these lessons as a goal in support plans.

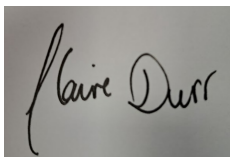
### **RSE Topics covered in Infants and Junior Classes**

- Keeping Safe
- Bodily changes during growth and birth (birth to 9)
- Making age appropriate choices
- 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 (Jun/Sen Infants)
- Naming the parts of the male/ female body using appropriate anatomical terms and identify some of their functions (1st/2nd)

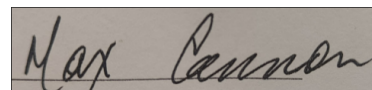
### **Ratification by Board of Management and Communication to School Community:**

This policy is a draft policy and will be consulted on by staff and parents in due course. After consultation the policy will be presented to the Board of Management for ratification. While in Draft it will be published in its this form until it has been ratified.

**This policy was ratified on: Yet to be ratified/Draft working document**



Claire Durr  
Principal



Max Cannon  
Chairperson

The policy will be available on the school website and through the office.