

Saint Anthony's Primary School, Craigavon

RSE: Relationships and Sexuality Education.

Composed January 2016

Ratified by BOG February 2016

For Review February 2017

Reviewed and Ratified At B.O.G. Meeting _____

Mission Statement

At St. Anthony's we aim to provide a happy, friendly and caring environment where children feel secure and valued. Children are encouraged to develop self-discipline and mutual respect for each other and for all adults in an atmosphere that promoted learning and excellence, enabling children to fulfil their true potential.

We aim to deepen the Catholic faith of each child by making prayer and worship a meaningful experience with emphasis on the liturgy and the sacraments.

Parents and all members of our community are welcomed into the school. Their involvement and contribution are sought consistently across the school in a partnership that enhances the children's education, welfare and social awareness.

All members of staff - teaching and non-teaching alike are valued and are actively encouraged to extend and develop their interests and professional skills.

Programme:

The school will use as a resource the RSE revised programme provided by the Diocesan Advisors. This programme is fundamentally linked into the existing Alive O/ Grow in Love programmes for each year group.

It is also linked with the PDMU aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and the lessons should intertwine with the strong pastoral ethos of care, love and respect that permeates all that we do.

In addition links have also been made with the NSPCC, Barnardos, Women's Aid, Helping hands and the PSNI. Our Barnardos Counsellor, Niamh Mc Caughley, is available in school each Tuesday. REACH mentors are also available to the school every Thursday morning.

Prayer is central in each classroom in our school and each RSE lesson includes an element of prayer.

While the lessons are in line with the catechetical programme there is no set time for them to be delivered. Teachers are therefore encouraged to seek out and plan for appropriate linkages and opportunities across the curriculum and include the lessons, either in blocks or, if appropriate, as stand-alone elements.

Parents are, of course, the first educators of their children and as such will be informed of this programme by the class teacher before lessons commence. If there are queries or concerns, these can be dealt with if the teacher is contacted.

Parents are entitled to remove their child from specific RSE/PDMU lessons as they so wish and this entitlement will be facilitated by the staff of Saint Anthony's.

Every effort is made to ensure that The Equality Act is taken into consideration in an age appropriate and sensitive manner.

This policy should not be viewed in isolation but rather as a component of our Pastoral care, Safeguarding and Child Protection Provision. It is therefore linked to:

The Pastoral Care Policy
The Child-Protection Policy
Positive Behaviour Policy
Internet Safety/E-Safety Policy