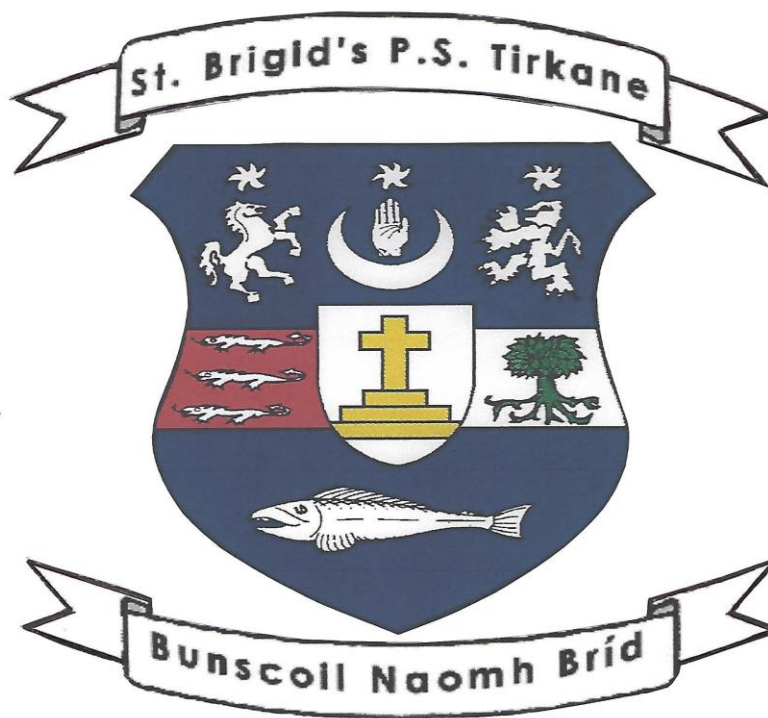


St Brigid's Primary School Tirkane/ Bunscoil Naomh Bríd Tír Chiana



Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy and Procedure

Date Ratified:	September 2025
Date of Review:	September 2028

AIM

Relationships and sexuality is a major issue for young people.

There has been a rise in young people's sexual activity.

At St Brigid's Primary School Tirkane / Bunscoil Naomh Bríd Tír Chiana, the RSE policy is intended to provide a framework through which our pupils can be given opportunities to develop the skills, attitudes and values necessary to deal with the challenges which they will meet in everyday life.

Parental Consultation/Agreement will be sought in the implementation of sensitive aspects of: The Relationship and Sexuality Policy

LEARNING INTENTIONS

Through the delivery of RSE our pupils should be able to:

- Form values and establish behaviour within a moral, spiritual and social framework that is in keeping with the catholic ethos as outlined in the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference Guidelines on Relationship and Sexuality Education
- Learn how to develop and enjoy friendships which are based on responsibility and mutual respect
- Lay foundations for developing more personal relationships in later life

Outcomes

Desired outcomes are:

- Enhanced self-awareness and self-esteem
- healthy and respectful friendships
- an understanding (age appropriate) of and a healthy attitude to human sexuality and relationships in a moral, social and spiritual framework
- responsible behaviour and the ability to make informed decisions
- a sense of value for family life and marriage
- an appreciation of the responsibilities of parenthood
- appreciation of the value of human life and the wonder of birth

RESPONDING TO SENSITIVE ISSUES

We recognise that, on occasion, certain sensitive issues may require consideration. When attempting to deal with these issues the following procedures will be adopted: advice will initially be sought from the school's designated teacher for child protection and if it is deemed necessary the school will follow its child protection guidelines.

➤ **'Risky' Children**

This term has been applied to children who display behaviours that may be harmful to other children.

Whilst these children have a right to education the school has an obligation to ensure the well being of the entire school population. In order to do so we will carry out a risk assessment.

➤ **Sexual Identity and Sexual Orientation**

We are aware that as young people are growing up they can experience sexual identity and orientation confusion. This may be temporary for some while for others it may become clear with time.

It is vitally important that all curricular delivery is sensitive to the needs of all pupils.

Bullying on the grounds of sexual orientation, is as unacceptable as it is in any other situation where someone is mistreated or bullied because of their differences from those who are perceived to be the majority. All issues relating to bullying on the grounds of sexual orientation will be dealt with appropriately in line with the general school anti-bullying policy.

➤ **School absences for personal reasons**

Our school policy for permitting pupils to leave school during the school day will be applied to *all* requests.

➤ **Child Protection**

If, for any reason, a young person is deemed to be at risk, then he/she will be informed that confidentiality must be breached, and the reasons for the breach. The young person will also be reassured that he/she will be supported throughout the process.

➤ **Role of Parents**

The school will never attempt to assume the cloak of parental responsibility. Rather, we view parents as having prime decision making responsibilities. It is paramount that we work in partnership with parents, particularly in relation to these sensitive issues

➤ **Recording and Referral**

Clear and concise records will be kept pertaining to all issues outlined above.

PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP

We recognise that parents have the prime responsibility for bringing up their children and we will therefore seek to ensure that our RSE programme complements and is supportive of the parents' role.

RELATED SCHOOL POLICIES

This policy is set within the broader school context of our Pastoral Care and as such should be read in conjunction with the following school policies / and other aspects.

- Pastoral Care Policy
- Personal Development Curriculum Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Misuse of Substances/Drugs Education Policy
- Administration of Medication Policy
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- The teaching of the Grow in Love Catholic Religion Programme

EXTERNAL AGENCIES:

It will be our intention to utilise outside agencies / Programmes, to help deliver RSE Education to our pupils. Some external agencies are used by the school are:

- ❖ CPSSS/Child Protection Support Services for Schools
- ❖ Social Services
- ❖ Catholic Committee for Maintained Schools (CCMS)
- ❖ Love for Life Programme/Grow in Love Programme
- ❖ CASE Programme (P.S.N.I.)
- ❖ Education Welfare Officer, SELB
- ❖ Board of Governors

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This school recognises and accepts the importance of on-going monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of the RSE programme.

DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Nature of Incident:

Date: _____ **Time:** _____ **Venue:** _____

Pupil(s) involved:

Teacher Response:

Substance given to Principal/Designated Teacher: Yes ☐ NO ☐

Report to Designated Teacher: Yes ☐ NO ☐

Report to Principal: Yes ☐ NO ☐

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Area Child Protection Committees' Regional Policy and Procedures April 2005

Children (NI) Order 1995 'The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill 2000'¹

DE Circular 'Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)' 2001/15

DE Circular 'Drugs: Guidance for schools' 2004/9

DE Circular 'Pastoral Care in Schools' 1999/10

Drugs: Guidance for Schools in Northern Ireland CCEA 2004

Evaluating Pastoral Care 1999 DENI

Guidance for Primary Schools: Relationships and Sexuality Education CCEA 2001

Guidance for Post Primary Schools: Relationships and Sexuality Education CCEA 2001

Integrating Personal Safety Programmes into the Curriculum: Child Protection CCEA 1999

Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection DENI 1999

The Education and Libraries (NI) Order 2003

Together Towards Improvement: A Process for Self-Evaluation
Department of Education ETI

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 3; Article 12; Article 19