



Building a Legacy

Andrews Memorial Primary School

Policy on Relationships and Sexuality Education

August 2019

Review 2022

Our school ethos

Andrews Memorial believes in the potential of every child: to create; to achieve; to celebrate; to make a difference. We believe in blending and balancing the traditional elements of literacy and numeracy with a stimulating, up-to-date and challenging curriculum. We recognise the potential for ICT to enhance learning across the curriculum.

We aim to ensure that we provide a welcoming, caring and happy learning environment, in and beyond the classroom; also that we deliver learning that is valued by the whole school community and which develops an understanding and an appreciation of the world around us.

Ultimately, we hope to nurture well-rounded young people, who can engage with each other and with adults; who respect everyone and who have a sense of moral responsibility.

We believe it is our duty to:

- ✓ Enthuse and enable pupils to reach their full potential by developing independence, self-discipline, self-confidence and self-esteem*
- ✓ Create an atmosphere of encouragement and high expectations*
- ✓ Build and nurture partnerships between home, school and the community*
- ✓ Provide a well-balanced, exciting curriculum in a safe, caring and happy environment*
- ✓ Promote an ethos of ambition and achievement*
- ✓ Instil a sense of purpose in making a contribution to life in and beyond school*

ANDREWS MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY ON RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION

The general aim of education is to contribute towards the development of all aspects of the individual; including the aesthetic, creative, critical, cultural, emotional, intellectual, moral, physical, political, social and spiritual. This development impacts on personal and family life, working life, living in the community and leisure. Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is clearly a part of this general aim.

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is a lifelong process which encompasses the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills, and the development of attitudes, beliefs and values about personal and social relationships and gender issues. The learning process begins informally with our parents (or those holding parental responsibility) long before any formal education takes place at school.

Sexuality includes all aspects of the human person that relate to being male or female and is subject to change and development throughout life. Sexuality is an integral part of the human personality and has biological, cultural, physiological, social and spiritual dimensions. It especially concerns affectivity, the capacity to give and receive love and the aptitude for forming relationships with others. It is a complex dimension of human life and relationships, (RSE Guidance for Primary Schools).

This policy aims to continue this learning process in the school setting and reflects the ethos of Andrews Memorial Primary School, in addition to taking account of the RSE and Department of Education guidelines.

This policy has been drafted in consultation with the school community - parents, staff, and governors.

AIMS

This RSE policy links closely to the school's Child Protection Policy and its Policy on E-safety and Responsible Use of the Internet. In addition, it is in line with the school's continuing focus on PERMA, and the Personal Development and Mutual Understanding curriculum. PERMA is an acronym for a model of well-being which has been implemented throughout our school community (P - Positivity, E - Engagement, R - Relationships, M - Meaning, A - Achievement).

The aims of the policy are:

- To equip children with the appropriate knowledge, language and actions to be taken in order to feel safe

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- To enhance the positive personal development, self-esteem, self-worth and well-being of the child
- To help the child develop and maintain healthy friendships and relationships
- To promote responsible behaviour and the ability to make informed decisions
- To equip children with the skills and knowledge necessary to make informed choices and decisions about their own behaviour
- To help children become aware that actions have consequences and that their behaviour should reflect this

THE ROLE OF RELATIONSHIPS & SEXUALITY IN EDUCATION

The school acknowledges and recognises the importance of healthy relationships. This involves the whole person, their values, and beliefs, personal and social domains. It is primarily influenced by parents, their attitudes and children's experiences at home. The relationships nurtured within the school community between children, staff (teaching and non-teaching) and parents are critical to the development of an effective PDMU and RSE curriculum.

Morality is in essence behavioural and it is important that children realise that their behaviour has implications for them, both personally and socially. For this reason, the school endeavours to help children develop feelings of honesty, integrity, resilience, positivity and self-worth.

MORAL AND VALUES FRAMEWORK

Andrews Memorial values all of its pupils equally. It recognises the diversity of family life. The school will promote the institution of the family in its many forms. Stable, caring and loving relationships will be presented as the ideal.

The school acknowledges the influence of social media and use of the internet on today's families. Children may be the recipients of inappropriate or unhelpful information. Given this situation, the school will strive to provide appropriate opportunities for pupils to consider this information and ensure they receive accurate information. The school will encourage the pupils to develop their self-esteem and confidence to enable them to make critical and informed decisions in later life.

The provision of RSE is an equal opportunities issue. All pupils have a right to an education which adequately prepares them for adult life, and good RSE plays an integral part.

CURRICULUM ORGANISATION

The primary curriculum offers opportunities to develop the teaching of RSE in a holistic and cross curricular way. Issues can be integrated within topic work, through the existing PDMU curriculum, assemblies, and curricular areas at each key stage.

In many instances, RSE shares content with The World Around Us, Religious Education, Physical Education, Using ICT and Literacy, as well as PDMU. Andrews Memorial places particular emphasis on the pupil voice and provides opportunities for children to express their ideas and feelings in an appropriate and respectful manner.

As opportunities become available, staff will engage in training for RSE. Review of RSE procedures and provision will take place following new training or guidance. This review will involve pupils, parents, staff and governors. The Principal and the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator will ensure that all outside agency support is age appropriate and in keeping with the ethos of Andrews Memorial Primary School.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Board of Governors examines and ratifies the school's RSE Policy
- The Principal, School Leadership Team and the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator oversee the school's approach to RSE and consults with the Board of Governors, staff, pupils, parents, carers, and health professionals
- The Pastoral Care Co-ordinator drafts and reviews the policy in line with the school's Safeguarding Policy Review timetable the policy
- The staff will provide a link to, and have a complementary role with, parents/carers and deliver the school's RSE programme within the context of the Northern Ireland Curriculum

CONFIDENTIALITY

From time to time, a child may make a disclosure of a confidential nature. This will be dealt with in line with the school's Child Protection Procedures.

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

- Mr Ralph Magee - Principal
- Mrs Ashleigh Sims - Designated Child Protection Teacher
- Mrs Julie Hanafin - Deputy Designated Child Protection Teacher and Pastoral Care Co-ordinator
- Mrs Carol Nixon - Board of Governors' representative
- Mr Nick Mitford - Board of Governors' representative

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