

Definition of RSE:

- Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) is a lifelong process of acquiring knowledge and understanding, and of developing attitudes, beliefs and values about sexual identity, relationships and intimacy. This education is delivered consciously and unconsciously by parents and teachers.
- In school, RSE will provide structured opportunities for students to acquire a knowledge and understanding of human relationships and sexuality through processes which will enable them to form values and establish behaviour within a moral, spiritual and social framework.
- This approach gives opportunities to young people to learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help them think and act in a moral, caring and responsible manner.
- In St. Augustine's, RSE aims to help students learn, at home and in school, about their friendships and relationships with others. This work will be based on developing a good self-image, promoting respect for themselves and for others, and providing them with appropriate information.

Relationship of RSE to SPHE:

- RSE is an integral part of Social, Personal and Health Education and must be taught in this context. SPHE and RSE will be taught throughout the school from first year to sixth year in following a set curriculum.
- RSE is also offered informally to pupils through a caring and supportive school atmosphere. It is fostered in positive relationships between home, school and the community.

The aims of our RSE Programme:

1. To assist parents in their role as primary educators so that they may guide their child's development physically, socially and emotionally.
2. To enhance the personal development, self-esteem and well-being of the student.
3. To help the student to develop healthy friendships and relationships.
4. To foster an understanding of, and a healthy attitude to, relationships and sexuality in a moral, spiritual and social framework.
5. To develop an appreciation of the dignity, uniqueness and well-being of others.
6. To acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of themselves.
7. To understand the nature, growth and development of relationships within families, in friendships and in wider contexts
8. To acquire and improve the skills of communication and social interaction.
9. To develop and promote in the student, a sense of understanding of and respect for the process of birth and new life.

Curriculum Content for RSE :

- The content objectives, which will be taught according to class level, are from the SPHE Curriculum.
- Each objective will be presented and taught using an age-appropriate and sensitive approach.
- Relevant resources and appropriate language will be used in the teaching of each topic.

Guidelines for the Management and Organisation of RSE in our School:

The RSE programme will be delivered as follows:

- Parents are the primary educators of their child. St. Augustine's school has a role to play in supporting and complementing parents in this work, helping to communicate the Christian visions of human life and relationships through the RSE programme.
- It is the policy of our school to nurture Catholic values in relation to love, marriage, parenthood and family life.
- RSE is an integral part of the SPHE programme and will be taught in this context. The curriculum is spiral in nature and all content will be delivered developmentally throughout the student's time in St. Augustine's.
- RSE will be taught in the normal classroom situation by the class teacher. All information delivered will be informed by the content objectives of the SPHE Curriculum.

Sensitive Issues

- Each class teacher will teach the RSE programme including the sensitive issues. Teachers will teach only the topics laid down for the class and will only answer those questions which are relevant to the programme for that year. Questions arising from curriculum content will be addressed in a sensible, sensitive and age-appropriate manner. Should a pupil require information that is not in line with the curriculum content and not considered to be age-appropriate, the school will not give such information and will refer the question back to the parents. Teachers will not answer personal questions about themselves nor require the child to give information of a personal nature which he does not wish to share.
- Language will, at all times, reflect respect for those involved and for educational content. In St. Augustine's we will give the students correct and appropriate language to communicate confidently about themselves, their sexuality and their relationships.
- The school holds no responsibility for any information which the student may receive outside the direct teaching of the RSE lessons.