

COLÁISTE BRÍDE

ENNISCORTHY

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION

DRAFT POLICY DOCUMENT

Ratified by the Board of Management on

Signed: _____

**Secretary,
Board of Managment**

The R.S.E Committee was formed in 1997 and the following parents volunteered to take a place on the Committee:

Mrs. Wall, Mrs. Grannell, Mrs. O'Connor, Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Murphy.
Ms. N. Moriarty agreed to represent the Board of Management and the staff was represented by Mrs. D. O'Connor, Ms. Kirwan and Ms. O.Moriarty.

Meetings were held throughout the school years 1997/1998 and 1998/1999, and the draft policy was produced. This draft policy was then made available to the parents and teachers of the school. A sample selection of students was surveyed to determine their views on important issues to them in relation to R.S.E.

On behalf of the Board of Management of our school, I would like to thank everyone associated with the production of this report. It is a valuable contribution to the educational philosophy of Coláiste Bríde and will serve the needs of our students for some time to come. Finally, thanks are due especially to Ms. O. Moriarty who chaired the R.S.E Committee with good humour and efficiency, and made membership of this Committee a pleasant learning experience for all.

THOMAS SHERIDAN
Principal

DEFINITION OF R.S.E.

R.S.E. aims to provide opportunities for children and young people to learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help them think and act in a moral, caring and responsible way. Sexuality is a key element of healthy social and personal development in all our lives. Sexual development calls for the critical evaluation of the wide range of information, opinions, attitudes and values with which adolescents are bombarded. A holistic understanding of sexuality will contribute to the development of personal well being, will enhance personal relationships and will have implications for the family and ultimately for society.

RELATIONSHIP OF R.S.E. TO S.P.H.E.

The general aim of education is to contribute towards the development of all aspects of the individual, including the aesthetic, creative, cultural, emotional, intellectual, moral, physical, political, religious, social and spiritual development for personal and family life, for living in the community and for leisure. S.P.H.E. (Social, Personal and Health Education) provides students with a unique opportunity to develop the skills and competencies to learn about themselves and others, and to make informed decisions about their health, personal lives and social development. R.S.E. is an integral part of each individuals health, personal life and social development.

OUR SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

We are working to promote a secure and caring community environment, where respect, responsibility and Christian commitment grow; drawing forth the positive potential to each individual.

Aims of our school:

- To maintain a caring, stable environment where each student feels safe and secure.
- To foster in each student a sense of respect and tolerance for herself, for others and for the wider community.
- To encourage each student to take the responsibility for herself, her learning and her property and to instil in her an overall sense of honesty, loyalty and integrity.
- To develop in each pupil her diverse talents and potential: social, physical, creative, emotional, spiritual and academic.
- To recognise and reward effort and achievement, thus promoting a true sense of confidence and well being.

WHAT THE SCHOOL CURRENTLY PROVIDES

R.S.E. is provided in several subject areas at present. Junior Cycle Science and Home Economics provide the biological content of R.S.E. Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle Religion covers aspects of R.S.E. and at Senior Level Biology and Home Economics both include sections on Reproduction. Areas linked with R.S.E. are dealt with at present in Health Education or Pastoral Care. Some areas covered include communication skills, decision making, feelings, self-esteem and assertiveness.

AIMS OF OUR R.S.E. PROGRAMME

The R.S.E. Programme in Coláiste Bríde aims to help young people understand and develop friendships and relationship in the content of Christian values. It is also aimed at promoting an understanding of sexuality, developing a sense of self-awareness and becoming aware of ways in which individuals change and grow especially during adolescence. We aim to promote a positive attitude to one's own sexuality and one's relationship with others again within the Catholic/Christian value system. We also aim to promote a knowledge of a respect for reproduction and to enable young people develop attitudes and values towards their sexuality.

ONGOING SUPPORT, DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

Teachers involved in the delivery of the R.S.E programme will have access to training and development opportunities.

The school will support parents in providing educational opportunities for themselves in the area of S.P.H.E.

The school is committed to providing all relevant resource materials.