

12 Courtenay Hill, Newry, Co Down, BT34 2EA
Phone: (028) 3026 2175

25 September 2023

Dear Parents,

There has been a lot of media misinformation regarding the mandatory onus on schools to teach elements of RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education). We want to take this opportunity to reassure you that there have been no changes to the Primary school curriculum in this regard. Recent guidance sent to us from the Department of Education reiterates this by stating:

The change to legislation brought in by the Secretary of State from 1 July 2023 does not apply to primary schools. It applies only to specific elements of the RSE curriculum at KS3 and KS4 in post-primary schools.

Whilst there is an obligation on us as a primary school to teach RSE, how we do this has been left, thankfully, in our hands. In St. Clare's Abbey Primary School we use the Flourish Programme, adapted by the Catholic Schools Trustee Service.

For the most part we are happy with all the lessons provided by 'Flourish'. However, in KS2 there are 3 lessons which we feel, as a staff, are a little too detailed for the young minds in front of us. As a result, we have made the decision NOT to teach these lessons.

In the case of P6 and P7, where we feel they do need to learn a little about changes to their body as they approach the teenage years, we hand this over to a specialist outside agency, namely 'Love for Life'. If your child is in P6 or P7 separate information regarding what they will learn in these sessions will be communicated to you prior to the visit from 'Love for Life'.

We feel privileged to have been entrusted with the holistic education of your precious child. Please trust that we take this very seriously and will endeavour, at all times, to preserve their innocence while teaching them about respect, inclusivity and love.

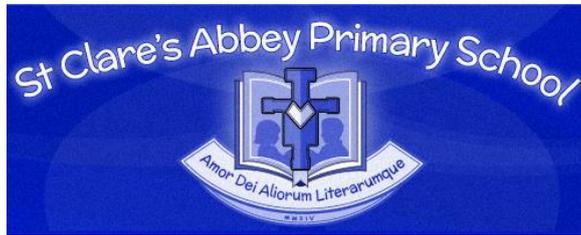
If you have any questions after reading the information on the next page, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Donnelly or Mrs Cribbin.

Thank you.

Mrs M. Monaghan

Principal





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Primary 1

Myself

- I am Me – God loves me.
- I have a wonderful body. My body is a gift from God. I must look after it.

Myself and Others

- I have a family. We love each other. Jesus had a family too.

Myself and the Wider World

- I have friends. Jesus is my friend.

Primary 2

Myself

- I am growing. My body is changing. God loves us as we grow and change.
- I keep myself safe. I look out for other people. Jesus asked us to care for each other.

Myself and Others

- I have feelings. Others have feelings too. I want to be a good friend. I am kind like Jesus.

Myself and the Wider World

- Sometimes I need help. I ask for help. I can always ask for God's help.

Primary 3

Myself

- I am unique. God loves me as I am.

Myself and Others

- Other people are special too. I respect other people. Jesus wants us to respect everyone.
- My space, your space. I am gentle and understanding as Jesus asked me to be.

Myself and the Wider World

- Some people are not as lucky as I am. I care about them too. Jesus cared for others.

Primary 4

Myself

- My body is amazing. I am grateful to God for all that I can do.

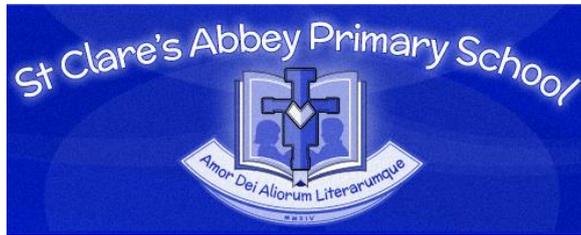
Myself and Others

- I am loyal to my friends. I don't let them down. Jesus asked us to be loyal.

Myself and the Wider World

- People I admire. There are lots of good people. Jesus was a role-model.
- Dangerous situations. What should I do? Who can help?





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Primary 5

Myself

- My gender is part of who I am. God loves me as I am.

Myself and Others

- Different types of friendships. Jesus had many friends.
- I support my friends.

Myself and the Wider World

- My neighbourhood – showing love to everyone. God wants us to show love in many different ways.

Specifics re: body parts and body changes are not taught at this stage in KS2.

Primary 6

Myself

- I am growing into my adult body. God designed me perfectly.
- Good choices, bad choices. The choice is mine. My conscience will guide me.

Myself and Others

- My words and actions can hurt others. Jesus asks us to use words and actions carefully.

Myself and the Wider World

- We need to look after the earth. The environment is God's creation. He asked us to look after it.

This lesson is not taught.

Life for Love is used to discuss changes to our body

Primary 7

Myself

- My sexuality is part of who I am. God loves me as I am.
- Puberty – welcome changes. I am perfectly designed by God.

Myself and Others

- I am attracted to other people. I respect them. God made us to be compatible with each other.

Myself and the Wider World

- Social media can be good and bad. Respect is the key. God wants us to respect each other

This lesson is not taught

This is taught by Love for Life

