

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS RESOURCE IS BEING CONSTANTLY MODIFIED AND UPDATED.

Rationale:

Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) is a key aspect of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) and Health and Wellbeing (HWB). The Comhairle issued [HWB-RSHP-Guidance-for-Schools-2023](#), which outlines the commitment the authority has in delivering, educating and equipping children and young people with the knowledge, skills and values for adulthood. It is worth noting here that within this guidance, that amongst other resources, the Comhairle “commends the use of the age and stage appropriate material as set out by Scottish Catholic Education Service for the teaching of [RSHP] in Western Isles Schools, noting that schools may adjust these materials as appropriate.” (Paragraph 1.6)

Relationships are a key aspect of this curricular area and it is important that whilst recognising the views of parents/carers and the local community that teachers continue to use their professional judgement and make informed decisions that suit the needs of the children in their class. It is imperative that the UNCRC Rights of the Child are at the heart of our education system, as well as parental involvement. The [UNCRC Articles](#) which are most pertinent are Article 2, Article 3, Article 5, Article 28, Article 29 and Article 34.

The working party has carefully considered all the materials and suggested resources that may or may not be used to deliver aspects of RSHP. As with any curricular area, it is not one specific resource that is used to deliver learning and teaching. In preparing the planners we have scrutinised the CfE Experiences & Outcomes and Benchmarks, to ensure pupils’ learning is progressive and planned in a coherent way which ensures they are receiving their full entitlement. Considering our community and context, we have reviewed the materials, edited some slides and created appendices with the recommended changes whilst still ensuring full coverage. It has been important for us to recognise our own local contexts and make informed decisions in relation to Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC).

Parental engagement is a key aspect in delivering RSHP. Within the suite of resources there is a checklist to be followed. All parents should be notified prior to the teaching of Sexual Health within RSHP; outlining what will be taught and resources that will be used. As stated in **paragraph 57**, Scottish Government publication:

"In the instance of a parent wishing to withdraw a school aged child from sexual health education lessons, schools must remind parents of the child's right to an education and to participate, bearing in mind their age and maturity. Where, after due consideration and subject to paragraph 58, the parent or carer decides to withdraw a school aged child from sexual health education lessons, arrangements should be made for the child to have alternative positive educational provision, which meets the Health and Wellbeing outcomes." [Conduct of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education in Schools, \(Scottish Government, December 2014\)](#)