SALESIAN COLLEGE

"We care, we develop, we believe – together we achieve"

10-09-2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Aware of the important life skills and learning that SPHE provides as part of a holistic education for young people, Salesian College implemented the updated Junior Cycle Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) in September 2023, the new Senior Cycle Curriculum (2024) in September 2025 and the updated Transition Year SPHE curriculum as part of the overall new Transition Year Programme Statement (2024) also in 2025.

Salesian College is satisfied that the redevelopment of the SPHE curricula has been informed by extensive research, by work with schools and education partners, and has been the focus of far-reaching public consultation, including an extensive consultation on the draft curricula.

Deliberations by the members of NCCA Council, its Boards and SPHE Development Groups provided a further important source of expertise and advice. In carrying out their deliberations, the members of these representative structures have drawn on both national and international research, consultation findings and relevant government policy commitments.

Furthermore, in developing the curriculum, significant attention has been paid to ensuring that learning is age appropriate.

Decisions about what to include in the curriculum are evidence-based and informed by international best practice, as well as extensive consultations with parents/guardians, teachers. For further information and detail on any of the above curricula, please see https://www.curriculumonline.ie/. Students at Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle have a textbook for SPHE and while other teaching materials are also used, this is a helpful resource to help inform you of what they will be studying and discussing in SPHE. In general, we begin the RSE modules in January for Junior Cycle year groups and Transition Year, Fifth and Sixth Year cover RSE on a modular basis throughout the year. However, teaching students about their sexuality, healthy relationships, inclusivity, and respect for everyone is an integral part of the SPHE programme and aspects of RSE will be taught and discussed throughout the year as part of the curriculum and in an age-appropriate manner.

If you would like any further information on any of the above please contact Ms. Harris (Assistant Principal for Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Programmes) at the school on mharris@salesianscelbridge.com.

Yours faithfully,

B. Kearns (Principal) M. Harris Coordinator of Wellbeing Programme