



## **Stay Safe Policy**

### **Introduction**

This policy was devised in line with current recommendations and guidelines from the Child Protection Guidelines and Procedures (DES, 2017) and Children First (DCYA, 2017).

The Stay Safe programme is a personal safety skills programme for primary schools. The aim of the programme is to reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying through the provision of personal safety education for children and training for teachers, school management boards and parents. It is developmentally structured to enable primary school teachers to deliver an abuse prevention education that addresses personal safety issues such as physical, emotional and sexual abuse as well as bullying and stranger danger.

Under Child Protection Guidelines, all schools are obliged to teach the Stay Safe programme. The revised Stay Safe Programme will be implemented in its totality in each class in the school.

### **Format**

Stay Safe is taught as part of the SPHE (Social Personal and Health Education) curriculum and as per best practice recommendations, it will be taught in the second term of the year. In our school, it will be taught on a two-year cycle in conjunction with the Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Programme e.g. In 2021/22 RSE will be taught, in 2022/23 Stay Safe will be taught.

A teacher may decide to revisit topics at other times during the year if the need arises. As outlined in the programme guidelines, individual adaptations or supports will be put in place for certain pupils with special educational needs.

Children from Junior Infants to Sixth Class participate in formal lessons from the Stay Safe Programme.

### **Content**

Five topics are covered under the Stay Safe Programme:

- Feeling Safe and Unsafe
- Friendship and Bullying
- Touches
- Secrets and Telling
- Strangers

The lessons of the Stay Safe programme are spiral in nature, where similar content is revisited at each level but the processes, approaches and information adopted are designed to reflect the needs of children at a particular time and at their various stages of readiness.

### **Collaboration**

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to become involved by discussing each lesson with their child and helping their child to complete each worksheet based on the lessons in the programme.

Parents will be informed in advance of commencement of teaching the Stay Safe Programme. They are directed to [www.pdst.ie/staysafe](http://www.pdst.ie/staysafe) to see the content of the lessons and for any further information they might need.

School staff and members of the Board of Management will be facilitated to attend CPD training on the revised Stay Safe programme.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis or sooner should a need arise. Parents and staff will be informed of any amendments made.

### **Ratification**

This plan was adopted by the Board of Management at a meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**Signed:** Peter Mc Callig

Chairperson of Board of Management

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Signed:** Grace Burke

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022