

# St. Joseph's National School

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## St Joseph's Stay Safe Policy

### Introductory Statement

The Stay Safe programme is part of the Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.) Curriculum. The staff, parents and management of St Joseph's N.S School have developed and agreed this policy in accordance with our child protection policy and the Department's Child Protection guidelines.

### Aim:

The aim of the programme is to teach children personal safety skills so they can look after themselves in situations which could be upsetting or dangerous. It deals initially with common situations which most children will experience at some stage or other e.g. getting lost or being bullied. The programme also teaches children the safety skills necessary to protect themselves from physical or sexual abuse and the emphasis on the importance of telling a trusted adult about problems they may have.

*\*\*\*\*\*The aim of the programme is to reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying through the provision of a personal safety education programme for children at primary school level, continuing professional development for teachers, training for Boards of Management and information sessions for parents.*

*The programme seeks to enhance children's self-protective skills by participation in lessons on safe and unsafe situations, bullying, inappropriate touch, secrets, telling and stranger danger.*

*The programme aims to give children the skills necessary to enable them to recognise and resist abuse/victimisation and teaches them that they should always tell (an adult that can help) about any situation which they find unsafe, upsetting, threatening, dangerous or abusive.*

### Objectives of Stay Safe:

- To help children to identify and express safe and unsafe feelings.
- To teach children safety skills for dealing with common unsafe situations such as getting lost.
- To encourage children to value friendships and to teach them skills for making and keeping friends.
- To teach children safety strategies for dealing with bullying.
- To teach children that it is not acceptable to bully others.
- To encourage children to value and enjoy normal affection.
- To teach children how to deal with an unsafe or inappropriate touch.



- To teach the rule: 'Never keep secrets about touching'.
- To help children recognise the difference between a good secret and a bad secret.
- To help children identify the adults they could tell about a bad secret and to give them the opportunity to practice telling.
- To clarify for the children who strangers are.
- To give the children safety strategies for dealing appropriately with strangers.

**Content:**

**The lessons cover the following topics:**

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

**Children participating in this programme will learn:**

- About feelings: To recognise the importance of feelings; how to express them appropriately and in particular to recognise unsafe feelings.
- About Friendship: making friends and the value of friendship.
- About Bullying: What bullying is; strategies for dealing with bullying behaviour, and that it is never acceptable to bully others.
- The importance of building confidence and self- esteem.
- How to identify and deal with an inappropriate or unsafe touch.
- That it is ok to say 'no' to an adult in a situation where they feel unsafe threatened or frightened.
- To identify trusted adults whom they should tell if they are feeling frightened, threatened, worried or unsafe in anyway.
- To understand someone might bribe, trick or threaten them to keep a secret.
- It is never their fault if they are victimised or abused.
- That they should never go anywhere with or take anything from a stranger.
- Appropriate language for telling
- The Stay Safe rules:
  - Say no, Get away and Tell
  - Never keep secrets about touch
  - Never go anywhere with or take anything from a stranger



### **The Management and Organization of Stay Safe in Our school**

- The teaching of the Stay Safe Programme will be carried out on Year 2 of our SPHE plan in January /February.
- All children will be given equal access to Stay Safe Programme within the SPHE curriculum.
- A letter explaining the content of the Stay Safe Programme will go out to parents prior to the teaching of the programme.
- Home work; Home School Links (HSL) on each topic are included throughout the programme. These HSL will inform parents/carers on the topics and specific lessons being covered in class and how they can be reinforced at home.
- Parental Concerns: If parents are concerned about the more sensitive aspects of the Stay Safe Programme, they are welcome to visit the school to view the curriculum and discuss their concerns with the Principal.
- A teacher who is concerned about teaching a particular topic within the Stay Safe programme should talk to the principal about his/her concerns.

### **Resources**

- The Stay Safe Programme.

### **Responsibility For Review.**

The responsibility for the review will lie with the principal, teachers, B.O.M and parents of children attending the school at the time of review.

### **Ratification and communication**

This policy will be presented to the B.O.M for ratification. The policy thereafter will be available on request from the principal for inspection by any relevant parties.

### **Ratification of Policy**

This policy was review and adopted by the Board of Management on 7.3.2019

Signed: Frank Gearty  
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Mrs. O. Egan  
Principal

Date: 7.3.2019

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

During SPHE lessons over the next fortnight, we will be teaching the children about the importance of staying safe. In these lessons children are given the opportunity to discuss and value appropriate touches. Opportunities are given to learn and practice personal safety strategies, including identifying trusted adults in whom children can confide.

The aim of these lessons is to teach children safety skills so that they can look after themselves in situations which could be upsetting or dangerous.

Teachers will be happy to answer any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Orla Egan

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