

# **St. Joseph's N.S., Leitrim Village, Roll No: 0125B**

## **Policy on the Stay Safe Programme**

### **1. Introduction**

This policy was developed by the staff and management of St. Joseph's N.S. in December 2018 to formally record established practices and routines regarding the teaching of the Stay Safe Programme in the school. This policy was reviewed in November 2020 following DES Curricular Guidelines issued to schools in August 2020 as schools reopen after the Covid 19 closure.

St. Joseph's N.S. teaches the Stay Safe Programme, a teaching package designed for use in Irish primary schools. It was researched and developed by the Child Abuse Prevention Programme.

### **2. Rationale**

Under the 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools', DES (2017) all schools are obliged to teach the Stay Safe Programme. The Stay Safe Programme has been updated and from the 2017/2018 school year onwards the new Stay Safe Programme will be implemented.

### **3. Aims**

The principal aim of the programme is to prevent both physical and sexual abuse of children. More information can be found on this programme on the Stay Safe website, [www.staysafe.ie](http://www.staysafe.ie) or on the Professional Development Services for Teachers (PDST) website, [www.pdst.ie](http://www.pdst.ie) and clicking on primary, child protection, and Stay Safe Programme (Revised)

### **4. Content**

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 to every class in the school every year in the **first term** of the school year (September to December) as per DES guidelines issued in August 2020.

Parents of new pupils to the school are given an Information Booklet on the Stay Safe Programme in the Induction Pack given to parents at Induction Day every year. All parents are made aware of the Stay Safe website, [www.staysafe.ie](http://www.staysafe.ie) where they can access the information booklet and lesson content.

Children from Junior infants to sixth class participate in formal lessons on the Stay Safe Programme. The same five topics are taught to each of the class groupings: - Infants, First and Second Class, Third and Fourth Class and Fifth and Sixth Class. The five topics are: - Feeling Safe and Unsafe, Friendship and Bullying, Touches, Secrets and Telling and Strangers. The number and content of the lessons increases in complexity as you move up through the school and cyberbullying is included as a topic from Third Class up. 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. It is considered good practice to inform parents in advance of commencement that the Stay Safe Programme is due to be taught and to direct them to [www.pdst.ie/staysafe](http://www.pdst.ie/staysafe)

Resource Materials for the Stay Safe Programme are stored in the principal's office and given to teachers for term two every year. When the programme is completed teachers return the materials to the principal office for safe storage. Teachers will be made aware of CPD on the Stay Safe Programme and encouraged to attend, subject to availability, substitute cover, the availability of substitute teachers etc.

The BOM will survey parents and BOM members on a regular basis to see if sufficient numbers are interested in attending an Information Evening on the Stay Safe Programme, delivered by CAPA. The parents were last surveyed in October 2018 but there was insufficient interest to organise this Information meeting. Parents were alerted to the Stay Safe website in a Communication Letter issued in December 2018 and in November 2020.

Parents' wishes will be respected and in the event that a parent decides to withdraw their child from the Stay Safe Programme they must inform the school of this decision in writing. This written record, outlining their reasons for doing so will be kept on file in the school.

### **5. RSE**

In addition to the Stay Safe Programme the RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) Programme will be taught to Sixth Class pupils every year. For a number of years the school has employed an external facilitator, to deliver this programme to Sixth Class pupils. A letter, outlining the content of the programme is issued to parent of 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils in advance and the programme is delivered in three sections. When parents were last surveyed they were all in agreement that the RSE programme be taught to Sixth Class pupils only. Parents will be consulted regarding this matter on a regular basis and the delivery will be changed if parents request it to be changed. Parents can withdraw their child from these lessons if they so wish and must inform the school in writing of their decision. Parents are then responsible for providing this education to their children.

For more Information on the RES Programme please read the school RSE Policy.

### **6. Communication and Review**

This policy will be reviewed regularly, at least every two years, or sooner should the need arise. Once ratified by the BOM it will be uploaded to the school website for all parents to access. Parents will be informed about this via a school Communication Letter. All teachers will be given an electronic copy of this policy on the school plan memory stick.

### **7. Ratification**

This plan was ratified by the Board of Management at a meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and has immediate effect.

### **8. Useful Resources and Websites**

Stay Safe  
PDST  
Webwise

[www.staysafe.ie](http://www.staysafe.ie)

[www.pdst.ie](http://www.pdst.ie)

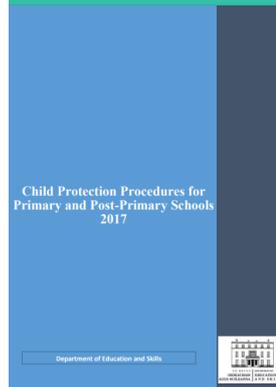
[www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie)



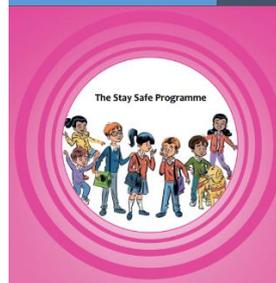
Children First 2017



Child Protection Procedures For Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017



Stay Safe Manuals for Every Class grouping



RSE Manuals for Every Class grouping

