



Stay Safe Policy

The Stay Safe Programme is a personal safety skills programme for primary schools taught in the context of SPHE.

Aim of the Stay Safe Programme

The aim of the programme is to reduce the vulnerability to child abuse and bullying through the provision of personal safety education for children. 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. The importance of building confidence and self-esteem and developing assertiveness and strong clear communication is emphasised throughout the programme. Children are taught that it is not their fault if they are bullied or abused.

In the Stay Safe Programme, the children learn the following:

- About feelings-importance and expression, recognise unsafe feelings.
- About friendship-making and keeping friends and the value of friendship.
- About bullying-what it is, strategies for dealing with bullying and never acceptable to bully others.
- The importance of building confidence and self-esteem.
- How to identify and deal with inappropriate or unsafe touches.
- That it is ok to say 'no' to an adult in a situation where they feel unsafe, threatened or frightened.
- To identify trusted adults with whom they should tell if they are feeling frightened, threatened, worried or unsafe in any way.
- To understand how 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 or take anything from a stranger.
- Appropriate language for telling.
- The Stay Safe Rules: Say No, Get Away, Tell. Never keep secrets about Touch. Never go anywhere or take anything from a stranger.

All primary schools are required to fully implement the Stay Safe Programme (DES 65/2011) within the contexts of the SPHE curriculum. The programme should be taught once over a two-year period. It will be taught in Term 2/3 of the Year. A teacher to revisit topics during the year, it is not explicitly taught.



Each topic builds on the learning from the previous topic, therefore the teacher should ensure that the topics are taught consecutively, beginning with topic 1 and working through to topic 5.

Stay Safe Topic

Number of lessons

Feeling Safe and Unsafe

Junior and Senior Infants-3

1st and 2nd Class-3

3rd and 4th Class-3

5th and 6th Class-3

Friendship and Bullying

Junior and Senior Infants-3

1st and 2nd Class-5

3rd and 4th Class-6

5th and 6th Class-6

Touches

Junior and Senior Infants-2

1st and 2nd Class-2

3rd and 4th Class-2

5th and 6th Class-2

Secrets and Telling

Junior and Senior Infants-1

1st and 2nd Class-1

3rd and 4th Class-1

5th and 6th Class-1

Strangers

Junior and Senior Infants-1

1st and 2nd Class-1

3rd and 4th Class-1

5th and 6th Class-1

Parental Involvement and Collaboration

In Scoil Phádraig NS, we recognise that partnership with parents is an essential component in the promotion and building of key life skills. Parental involvement gives children more opportunities to repeat the concepts and messages learned.



Parental participation is an essential part of the Stay Safe Programme both in terms of reinforcement and follow-up. Parents are informed about the teaching of the Stay Safe programme before lessons begin. Parents should be invited to contact the school if they have any queries or concerns about their child's participation in the programme. In the event that a parent withdraws their child from participation in the programme, Scoil Phádraig will keep a written record of their reasons for so doing. In the case of a child being withdrawn from any element of SPHE, parents will take full responsibility for teaching these concepts to their children. Parents can familiarise themselves with the content of all Stay Safe lessons at www.staysafe.ie. Provisions will be put in place for the child who has been withdrawn from these lessons. The child can go to another teacher's classroom in the school or they can be withdrawn from the school by the parent.

Confidentiality

Where there is a disclosure by a child of abuse, or a teacher has any concerns about a child, the school authorities will follow our Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (revised 2023).

Ongoing support, development and review

The Board of Management of Scoil Phádraig supports the implementation of the Stay Safe Programme. We recognise that our school has a supportive role to that of the home and we have a commitment to ensuring:

- Our staff will be facilitated to attend CPD training.
- Relevant teaching materials and resources are provided

Review

This policy will be subjected for review in 2025/2026

Ratified by the Board of Management

21/02/2024

Signed

Chairperson