**Stay Safe Policy**

As part of the SPHE Curriculum pupils in this school will be taught lessons from Stay Safe which is a personal safety education programme.

**Aim**

The aim of the Stay Safe 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 emphasises the importance of telling a trusted adult about any problems they have.

**Overview**

The Stay Safe programme is part of the Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum which all primary schools are required to implement. Co-operation between parents and teachers is essential to the success of this programme. It is important that parents/guardians are aware of the content of the Stay Safe lessons and are able to discuss the lessons with their children. In line with this parents are sent an explanatory letter prior to programme commencing.

**The lessons cover the following areas:**

·          Feeling Safe and Unsafe

·          Friendship and Bullying

·          Touches

·          Secrets and Telling

·          Strangers

Children participating in this programme will learn:

·          To distinguish between safe and unsafe feelings

·          What to do if lost

·          What to do if the phone or doorbell rings when they are alone in the house

·          The importance of friends in children’s lives

·          What to do if bullied

·          Stay Safe Rules: Say No/ Get Away/ Tell

·          Why not to bully others

·          Appreciating normal, appropriate touches

·          That unsafe touches should never be kept secret

·          How to respond to inappropriate touches (Stay Safe Rules)

·          Good and bad secrets

·          That some secrets should not be kept

·          Who and how to tell if in trouble

·          About strangers and safety strategies

**Request for withdrawal by parent of pupil**

If parents wish to have their child/ren withdrawn when sensitive issues are being taught, they are requested to submit this in writing to the Principal. Parents will be expected to make their wishes know each year to the new class teacher. Efforts will be made by the school, using the resources it has, to accommodate these children by providing supervision within another classroom. Teachers cannot be held responsible for language used necessarily in school life or by children.

***Timetable:***

Teachers will decide the timetabling of Stay Safe lessons and a letter will be sent to parents prior to the commencement of these lessons (APPENDIX A). If there is no request for the withdrawal of a child from this work the lessons should be spread through the term/s rather than taught within a concentrated timeframe. This allows the children the time to absorb the values within which this knowledge is presented.

**Links to other policy / planning areas:**

Prevention: SPHE curriculum, Strand Unit on ‘Safety and Protection’

 The School Code of Discipline

Procedures: Code of Behaviour

 Health and Safety Statement

Child safe Guarding Statement

Practice: Swimming Policy

 IT – Acceptable use policy

**Review and Monitoring**

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Board of Management when the need arises.

Staff will be requested on a regular basis to review the school policy in this area

New members of staff will be made aware of this policy.

The Board of Management will ensure that adequate training and support is provided for all staff

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Signed: Fr John McAlinden Signed: Ms Mary Hanafin

Chairperson Principal