

Stay Safe Policy

In conjunction with SPHE/Anti Bullying & Child Protection Policies the following policy has been agreed for St. Tiarnach's Primary School.

The policy is formulated to support the need for proactive/prevention/information regarding child abuse prevention in line with the overall ethos of the school. St. Tiarnach's maintains a very vigilant response to Child Protection and Anti Bullying Education Procedures.

Aims

- Provision of personal safety skills education for all children
- Creation of a safe, trusting, responsive and caring environment
- Develop awareness, responsibility in this area among whole school community
- Put in place procedures for good practice to protect children and staff
- Ensure all members of staff are aware of and familiar with D.E.S. guidelines and procedures in relation to reporting suspicious/allegations of child abuse. In St. Tiarnach's Primary School the D.L.P. (Designated Liaison Person) is Principal Majella Beggan and D.D.L.P. (Deputy Designated Liaison Person) is Ciara Quigley
- Provision of ongoing training

Stay Safe is currently taught to classes Senior Infants – 6th class inclusive. It is taught every second school year and is condensed into one full term. The lessons are then revised and consolidated annually as part of SPHE/Anti Bullying and Friends for Life programmes.

All lessons when complete have a short follow up written activity, which requires a signature by parents. Their role (parents) in support and developing Stay Safe rationale is vital for success.

Currently our Anti Bullying lessons/initiative work very well with Stay Safe Rules.

Good practice currently protects teachers and children.

- **Swimming** –segregation based on gender re. dressing rooms. Teachers are always there to supervise
- **L. Support/Resource teachers** –if individual tuition is necessary a glass panel is in place in door of each room/classroom to protect teacher/pupils. Most support is within the main classroom and withdrawal in groups as necessary.

All staff shares in responsibility for child protection but D.L.P. and D.D.L.P. have responsibility to report to B.O.M. Then follow clearly defined Child Protection Procedures which may execute referral route.

Stay Safe Policy

The Stay Safe Programme is designed to teach children Personal Safety Skills. Throughout the programme there is an emphasis on a broad range of social skills; asking for help, helping others, making friends and co-operating with others. Topics are introduced in a positive way with a problem solving approach developing for senior classes. Children are introduced to the topic of feeling unsafe within the context of feeling safe.

To enable children to acquire the safety skills contained in many lessons, repetition and role-play are crucial.

Barriers to telling such as guilt, fear and loyalty are explored and options are presented in the context of safe choices. Children's responsibility to respect the feelings of others is emphasised.

The stay safe programme should be taught in the context of Social, Personal and Health education. It is based on the following core elements, each of which is an integral part of the S.P.H.E. curriculum.

- 1. Nurturing children's self-esteem**
- 2. Building children's confidence**
- 3. Enabling children to be assertive**
- 4. Helping children to identify and express their feelings**

Strands in the Programme

- ❖ Feelings
- ❖ Self-esteem
- ❖ Assertiveness
- ❖ Safety skills
- ❖ Language & Vocabulary Development
- ❖ Artwork
- ❖ Circle time/Role Play
- ❖ Poems & Stories

Resources

- Stay Safe handbooks (10 lessons within)
- Interactive Resources
- D.V.D.