



Stay Safe Policy

Bennekerry N.S.

Bennekerry 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. The Stay Safe programme itself is a personal safety skills programme designed for use with primary school children from Junior Infants through to 6th class. 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. It 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

Under Child Protection Guidelines all schools are obliged to teach the Stay Safe programme. The Stay Safe Programme has been updated and the new Stay Safe Programme is implemented in our school.

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 on a rolling two year cycle in the second term of the year. In alternate years the RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) programme will be taught. The Stay Safe Programme will be taught in Senior Infants, Second Class, Third Class and Fifth Class while RSE will be taught in Junior Infants, First Class, Fourth Class and Sixth Class.

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.

We will inform parents in advance of commencement that the Stay Safe Programme is due to be taught and will direct them to www.pdst.ie/staysafe for any further information.

Research has shown that children with special educational needs are more vulnerable and consequently more at risk of becoming victims of abuse for reasons such as:

- Poor communication skills
- Limited sense of danger
- Need for intimate care
- Lack of mobility and greater reliance on adults
- Need for attention, friendship or affection
- Limited assertiveness and poorer self-confidence
- Limited understanding of sexuality or sexual behaviour

- Fear of not being believed

We will ensure that the personal safety education needs of all children with special educational needs are adequately met with due regard to the specific vulnerabilities of individual children. The Stay Safe pack 'Personal Safety Skills for Children with Learning Difficulties' (1996) was designed to supplement the Stay Safe mainstream pack to assist teachers with this work.


Consideration will also be given to how classwork can be supplemented by Special Education Teachers, e.g. oral language, vocabulary development and communication work around the Stay Safe programme.

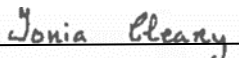
In the event that a parent decides to withdraw his/her child from the Stay Safe Programme, a written record of this decision and his/her reasons for doing so will be kept on file.

Staff will be facilitated to attend CPD training in the revised Stay Safe programme.

This plan was ratified by the Board of Management at a meeting on:

Date: 22nd January 2019

Signed:  (Chairperson)

Signed:  (Principal)