

*Ar scóth a chéile a mhairimid*



# Scoil an Linbh Íosa

## Stay Safe Policy

### Introduction

This policy was devised in line with current recommendations and guidelines [Child Protection Guidelines & Procedures (DES) 2017 and Children First (TUSLA) 2017], relating to child abuse prevention and child protection.

The CAPP (Child Abuse Prevention Programme), more commonly known as Stay Safe, is a primary school based approach to the prevention of child abuse. The aim of the programme is to reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying through the provision of a personal safety education programme for children at primary school level.

### Aim

The programme aims to give children the skills necessary to enable them to recognise and resist abuse or 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.

### Format

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.

The revised Stay Safe programme is presented at four levels in line with the Primary School Curriculum. In Scoil an Linbh Íosa the Stay Safe programme is taught in Term 2 each year, as part of the SPHE (Social Personal and Health Education) curriculum. Children from Junior Infants to Sixth class participate in formal lessons on the Stay Safe Programme. A teacher may decide to revisit topics at other times in the year, if the need arises. Staff will make every effort to ensure that the messages of the programme are reinforced whenever possible.

### Collaboration

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) or [staysafe.ie](http://staysafe.ie) for further information. To that end the principal writes to the parent body in January each year.

Parents and Guardians are encouraged to become involved in the programme by discussing each lesson with their child and helping their child to complete worksheets based on the lessons.

In the event that a parent wishes to withdraw their child from the Stay Safe Programme a written record of their reasons for doing so will be kept on file.

## **Training**

Continuing professional development for teachers and other staff members (provided by the PDST), training for Boards of Management (provided by the CPSMA) and information sessions for parents, in the Stay Safe programme, will be facilitated.

## **Companion Documents**

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- The Child Protection Policy
- The RSE Policy
- The Anti-bullying Policy
- The Code of Behaviour
- The Child Protection Statement
- Risk Assessment for Scoil an Linbh Íosa
- Child Protection Guidelines & Procedures (DES) 2017
- Children First (TUSLA) 2017

It is incumbent on all staff to familiarize themselves with these documents.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson

Board of Management