



Bunscoil Chríost Rí

Stay Safe Policy

■ **Title: Stay Safe Policy**

■ **Introductory Statement and Rationale**

(a) Introductory Statement

The staff of Bunscoil Chríost Rí formulated this Stay Safe Policy, in consultation with our Board of Management and our Parents, as we believe that the Stay Safe programme is a shared responsibility and their contributions and involvement will be essential to the effective implementation of the Stay Safe programme in the school.

(b) Rationale

The Child Abuse Prevention (Stay Safe) programme has been taught in Bunscoil Chríost Rí for many years, and it interlinks with many different areas across the curriculum.

■ **Vision and Aims**

a) Vision:

Stay Safe in our school will enable each child to: -

- Recognise and resist abuse or victimisation.
- Equip him/her to have the understanding of who to speak with in times they need help.

b) Aims:

The children of Bunscoil Chríost Rí should be enabled to achieve the aims outlined in the Stay Safe Programme, which include:

- To develop children's self-esteem, assertiveness and self-protective skills.
- To teach children that they should always tell an adult about any situation which they find unsafe, upsetting, threatening, dangerous or abusive.
- To give children the skills necessary to enable them to recognise abuse or bullying.
- To teach the two rules
 - Say no, get away and tell.
 - Never keep a touch a secret.

■ Content of Plan

Curriculum:

Stay Safe Programme:

All primary schools are required to fully implement the Stay Safe programme. The Stay Safe programme for primary schools plays a valuable role in helping children develop the skills necessary to enable them to recognise and resist abuse and potentially abusive situations. (Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, P. 67).

The Stay Safe programme will be taught in Bunscoil Chríost Rí in its entirety as part of the two year cycle of SPHE.

The Stay Safe Programme 2022 - 2023

The Stay Safe programme is a personal safety skills programme. In Bunscoil Chríost Rí the programme is a compulsory subject that is taught in all classes. Parental involvement and information is an essential part of the programme and activity sheets are sent home on lessons covered to reinforce the safety skills and messages learnt in school at home. Parents are encouraged to consult the parents' booklet: *Stay Safe: A Parent's Guide* and find extra information on www.stay safe.ie.

The staff decided that the most effective strategy to cover them effectively is outlined below:

Junior & Senior Infant Classes

| Topic | Junior Infants Senior Infants |
|-----------------------|--|
| Feeling Safe/Unsafe | Lesson 1: Feelings Lesson 2: Feeling Safe & Unsafe Lesson 3: Feeling Safe & Unsafe |
| Friendship & Bullying | Lesson2: What is Bullying Lesson 1: Friendship |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| | Lesson 3: Bullying prevention |
| Touches | Lesson 1: Touches Lesson 2: Never keep a touch a secret |
| Secrets & telling | Lesson 1: Secrets & telling |
| Strangers | Lesson 1: Strangers |

First & Second Classes

They agreed that first class teachers would take two themes from the programme and cover them in year one. Second class teachers would then revise these themes early in second class and cover the remaining themes. It was agreed by the teachers that this would create more clarity and make sure that all themes were well covered over the two-year cycle.

| Topic | First Class | Second Class |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Feeling Safe/Unsafe | Feeling safe / unsafe lessons | Revise these lessons early in term 1 |
| Secrets & telling | Secrets & Telling lessons | Revise these lessons early in term 1 |
| Touches | | Lesson 1: Touches Lesson 2: Never keep a touch a secret |
| Bullying | As part of Walk Tall | All bullying lessons |
| Strangers | | All strangers' lessons |

Third & Fourth Classes

They agreed that third class teachers would take two and a half themes from the programme and cover them in year one. Fourth class teachers would then revise these themes early in fourth class and cover the remaining themes. It was agreed by the teachers that this would create more clarity and make sure that all themes were well covered over the two year cycle.

| Topic | Third Class Fourth Class |
|------------------------|--|
| Feeling Safe/Unsafe | All three lessons Revise these lessons early in term 1 |
| Secrets & Telling | All lessons Revise these lessons early in term 1 |
| Friendships & Bullying | <div> Lessons 1 – 3 <div> Lesson 4 - 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friendship - Cyberbullying - What is bullying - Coping with bullying - Types of bullying - Class agreement </div> </div> |
| Touches | All touches lessons |

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Strangers | All strangers lessons |
|-----------|-----------------------|

Fifth & Sixth Classes

They agreed that fifth class teachers would take two themes from the programme and cover them in year one. Sixth class teachers would then revise these themes early in sixth class and cover the remaining themes. It was agreed by the teachers that this would create more clarity and make sure that all themes were well covered over the two year cycle.

| Topic | Fifth Class Sixth Class |
|------------------------|---|
| Feeling Safe/Unsafe | All three lessons Revise these lessons early in term 1 |
| Secrets & Telling | All lessons Revise these lessons early in term 1 |
| Friendships & Bullying | <div>Lessons 1 – 3</div> <div>Lesson 4 - 6</div> <div>- Friendship</div> <div>- Cyberbullying</div> <div>- What is bullying</div> <div>- Coping with bullying</div> <div>- Types of bullying</div> <div>- Class agreement</div> |
| Touches | All touches lessons |
| Strangers | All strangers lessons |

Procedures:

All staff in this school will follow the recommendations for reporting concerns or disclosures as outlined in the 'Children's First' document, and the department of Educations 'Child Protection Guidelines and Procedures'. (Both can be downloaded at www.staysafe.ie)

The Board of Management of this school have appointed Eoin Fitzpatrick as the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Dan O'Connell as the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLp). The staff and management have agreed:

- All concerns will be reported to the DLP in the first instance.
- Each report will be dated and signed.
- A strict adherence to maintaining confidentiality.

Best Practice:

Best practice in child protection is about the school identifying areas of practice which need to be addressed to ensure that children and staff are protected. When children are under the supervision of the school, teachers are considered to be 'in loco parentis'. As a result all staff are aware of their responsibilities in areas of child protection.

1. Physical Contact:

Physical contact between school personnel and the child should always be in response to the needs of the child and not the needs of the adult. It may be used to comfort, reassure, or assist the child but always open and not secretive and acceptable to the child.

2. Visitors

Visitors should never be left alone with pupils. The school will, as so far as possible, vet all visitors.

3. Children with toileting/care needs:

If a child has specific care needs, a meeting with parents, principal, teachers, and Special Needs Assistants will be set up to determine how the school will meet the pupils needs. **4. Toileting Accidents:**

Clean underwear and clothes will be available in the school and provided to a child who has an accident. Parents will be informed of any toileting accidents.

5. Special Education Team:

Special Education teachers will always work in an open safe environment in their rooms. Special Needs Assistants will work under the direction of the SENCO and class teachers. **6. Changing for games/swimming/PE**

Staff will not be allowed to change with children or help change a child in a cubicle or while they are alone. In situations where privacy is required parents will be asked to assist the child.

Every effort will be made to adhere to our best practice procedures. In the event of an emergency a full written report of the incident will be made to the principal and the parents.

Staffing:

In Bunscoil Chríost Rí the recruitment of staff and volunteers is crucial to ensuring that those working with children in the school are safe adults in so far as we can determine. The school always follows correct procedures in hiring, through interviews, references and Garda vetting.

Integration with other subject areas/policies and Linkage within Stay Safe:

SPHE

Children with Different Needs:

Teachers will endeavour to adapt and modify activities and methodologies in Stay Safe to encourage participation by children with special needs.

The Special Education Teachers will collaborate with Class Teachers to support and supplement the work done in the classroom where necessary.

We will liaise with trained professionals/appropriate agencies when dealing with sensitive issues to ensure that the children involved are fully supported.

Organisation:

Policies and programmes that support Stay Safe:

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|------------------------|
| <i>Policies</i> |
|------------------------|

- Child Safeguarding Statement
- Anti-Bullying
- Relationships and Sexuality Education
- Substance Use
- Code of Behaviour
- Enrolment
- Health and Safety
- Healthy Eating
- Internet Acceptable Usage

Programmes

- Active School Flag
- Amber Flag
- Wellbeing week
- Wellbeing Wednesday
- Health Promoting Schools
- Friends for Life

Homework:

Stay Safe homework, if prescribed, will reflect the active learning approach and will reinforce information already taught during class.

Resources:

The SPHE Toolkit

Further resources available from the **Child Abuse Prevention Programme (Stay Safe)** include:

Name of resource Brief description Contact details

Stay Safe for children with learning difficulties

Stay Safe –A Parent’s

A resource to assist teachers in introducing personal safety skills to children in special

Guide

Stay Safe programme to

education. All resources are available from:

In booklet and DVD format to introduce the

parents and outline the topics in the programme

Child Abuse Prevention Programme,

Stay Safe CD A CD of songs to accompany the Stay Safe programme

A dvd to accompany the topics of the Stay Safe programme

Stay Safe DVD

Bridge House, Cherry Orchard Hospital,
Dublin 10

☎ 01-6206347 staysafe@pdst.ie

Interactive websites to support the implementation of SPHE

www.staysafe.ie

Ratification:

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 16th May 2023

This policy will be reviewed once every year by the Board of Management. Parents and school personnel will be given written notification of this.

Signed Signed:

Denis Bohane

Ein Fitzpatrick

Chair of the Board

Principal

Date: 16th May 2023