



Derryooper National School Policies

Roll Number: 17547R

Patron: Most Rev. Michael Duignan, Bishop of Clonfert

Chairperson: Fr. Kieran O'Rourke P.P.

Phone: 0860483344

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Derryooper National School Stay Safe Policy

1. Introduction

This policy was developed in line with current **Child Protection Guidelines & Procedures (DES 2017) and Children First (TUSLA 2017)**, ensuring the **protection and safety of all students**. The **Stay Safe Programme** is a **primary school-based child abuse prevention and personal safety programme** designed to empower children with the skills and knowledge to **recognise, resist, and report unsafe situations**.

Derryooper National School is committed to the **well-being, personal safety, and protection** of all students. This programme aims to **equip children with the necessary skills** to identify risks, manage unsafe situations, and seek help when needed. The **Stay Safe Programme** is a vital part of our **Social, Personal, and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum**.

2. Aims of the Stay Safe Programme

- To **reduce children's vulnerability to abuse and bullying**.
- To **teach children personal safety strategies**.
- To **enable children to seek help** confidently.
- To **promote positive mental health, self-esteem, and resilience**.
- To **develop children's ability to recognise, resist, and report unsafe situations**.
- To **reinforce safe and respectful interactions among students**.

3. Implementation of the Stay Safe Programme

- The Stay Safe Programme is delivered as part of the **SPHE curriculum**.
- It is **taught every second year** from **Junior Infants to Sixth Class**.
- Lessons focus on **bullying, personal boundaries, online safety, and safe relationships**.
- The programme is adapted to be **age-appropriate and developmentally suitable**.
- Teachers may **revisit certain topics** if needed to address specific concerns.
- **Staff training and parental involvement** are essential to its success.

4. Parental Involvement & Collaboration

- Parents are informed in advance about the **Stay Safe Programme**.
- Parents are encouraged to discuss lessons at home and support children's learning.
- Information about the **programme content** is available at www.pdst.ie/staysafe.
- If a parent chooses to **withdraw their child**, a written record of their reasons will be kept.
- Open communication between **parents, staff, and the Board of Management** is encouraged.

5. Core Topics in the Stay Safe Programme

Junior & Senior Infants

- **Identifying safe and unsafe feelings.**
- **Understanding personal space and boundaries.**
- **Friendships and social interactions.**
- **Knowing my name, address, and phone number.**
- **Learning to say NO to unsafe situations.**

1st & 2nd Class

- **Recognising bullying and unsafe behaviours.**
- **Learning the importance of telling a trusted adult.**
- **Understanding secrets – good secrets vs. bad secrets.**
- **Safe relationships and peer support.**

3rd & 4th Class

- **Dealing with bullying and peer pressure.**
- **Understanding personal safety and body privacy.**
- **Responding to threats and inappropriate situations.**
- **Online safety and responsible internet use.**

5th & 6th Class

- **Personal rights and responsibilities.**
- **Dealing with social pressures and unsafe requests.**
- **Understanding personal boundaries and consent.**
- **Recognising grooming, inappropriate online contact, and harmful interactions.**

6. Delivery Methods

The Stay Safe Programme is delivered using **interactive and engaging teaching methodologies**, including:

- **Role play and scenario-based learning.**
- **Group discussions and circle time.**
- **Art-based expression and storytelling.**
- **Use of videos and digital resources.**

- **Real-life case studies and examples.**

7. Resources Used

The Stay Safe Programme utilises the following resources:

- **Teacher manuals and lesson plans.**
- **Parental guidance booklets.**
- **Classroom worksheets and digital activities.**
- **Videos and educational animations.**
- **SPHE-integrated lesson materials.**

8. Supervision & Safeguarding

- All staff involved in the delivery of the **Stay Safe Programme** receive **ongoing training.**
- The **Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Deputy DLP** oversee child protection concerns.
- **All staff follow mandatory reporting procedures** in line with **Children First Guidelines.**
- Lessons are conducted in a **safe and supportive environment.**

9. Monitoring & Review

- The **Stay Safe Programme** is reviewed **annually** by the **Board of Management.**
- Staff and parents are invited to provide **feedback on its effectiveness.**
- Updates are made to ensure **compliance with best practices and legal requirements.**
- Children's understanding is assessed to **ensure the programme's effectiveness.**

10. Policy Compliance

This policy ensures **compliance with national child protection and safety standards,** including:

- *Children First Act 2015*
- *Education Act 1998*
- *SPHE Guidelines for Primary Schools*
- *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (DES 2017)*

11. Approval & Signature Page

This **Stay Safe Policy** has been prepared by the **Principal** and approved by the **Board of Management**.

Signed:

Chairperson, Board of Management: _____

Principal, Derryoover National School:



Date:

19 February 2025
