Stay Safe Programme Policy

School Address*: Our Lady of Good Counsel School,*

Innishmore, Ballincollig, Cork. P31FH22

Phone number: *0214878370*

Roll number: *18208A*

School Patron: *Brothers of Charity*

Principal: *Aisling Power*.

Deputy Principal: *Nollaig Moynihan.*

Chairperson: *Harold Brooks*

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Stay Safe Programme Policy

Our Lady of Good Counsel School

Purpose

The purpose of the Stay Safe Programme is to provide pupils with age-appropriate, ability-appropriate and developmentally appropriate learning experiences that promote personal safety, self-protection skills, confidence, communication, and help-seeking behaviours. The programme supports pupils in recognising unsafe situations, understanding personal boundaries, and identifying trusted adults who can help keep them safe.

The programme will be delivered in accordance with:

- The Department of Education Stay Safe Programme.
- Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools.
- The school's Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The school's SPHE and RSE Policies.
- The specific learning needs of pupils attending Our Lady of Good Counsel School.

Aims

The Stay Safe Programme aims to enable pupils to:

- Develop awareness of situations which are safe and unsafe.
- Recognise and express feelings related to safety and wellbeing.
- Develop personal safety skills.
- Understand friendships, bullying and respectful relationships.
- Recognise appropriate and inappropriate touch.
- Understand the importance of reporting concerns to trusted adults.
- Distinguish between good secrets and secrets that should be shared.
- Develop strategies for dealing safely with strangers.
- Build confidence in seeking help when worried or frightened.

Programme Delivery

The programme will be delivered through:

- Direct teaching.
- Visual supports.
- Social stories.
- Role-play and modelling.
- Sensory and practical activities.
- Circle time discussions.
- AAC supports where required.
- Reinforcement through real-life situations and home-school communication.

Lessons will be differentiated to meet the diverse communication, sensory, cognitive and emotional needs of pupils.

Scheme of Work

Lesson 1: Feeling Safe and Unsafe

Learning Outcomes Pupils will:

- Identify feelings associated with being safe and unsafe.
- Recognise common unsafe situations.
- Learn practical strategies for staying safe.
- Identify trusted adults who can help.

Key Messages

- Safe feelings help us feel calm and happy.
- Unsafe feelings help us know when we need help.
- If something feels unsafe, tell a trusted adult.

Lesson 2: Understanding and Preventing Bullying

Learning Outcomes Pupils will:

- Recognise the characteristics of friendship.
- Understand that bullying behaviour is unacceptable.
- Practise simple strategies for responding to bullying.
- Identify adults who can help.

Key Messages

- Friends are kind and respectful.
- Bullying is never acceptable.
- Say "Stop", walk away, and tell a trusted adult.

Lesson 3: Understanding Touches and the Five Senses

Learning Outcomes Pupils will:

- Explore the sense of touch.
- Recognise positive, uncomfortable and unsafe touches.
- Understand personal body boundaries.
- Develop confidence in reporting inappropriate touch.

Key Messages

- My body belongs to me.
- I can say "No" to unwanted touch.
- Never keep secrets about touching.
- Tell a trusted adult if something feels wrong.

Lesson 4: Telling and Keeping Secrets

Learning Outcomes Pupils will:

- Distinguish between good secrets and bad secrets.
- Identify trusted adults.
- Practise asking for help when worried.

Key Messages

- Good secrets are surprises that make people happy.
- Bad secrets cause worry, fear or sadness.
- Never keep a bad secret.
- Always tell a trusted adult.

Lesson 5: Understanding Strangers

Learning Outcomes Pupils will:

- Understand the difference between familiar people and strangers.
- Learn and rehearse personal safety strategies.
- Develop confidence in responding appropriately to strangers.

Key Messages

- Not all strangers are dangerous, but we must be careful.
- Never go anywhere with a stranger.
- Never accept gifts from a stranger.
- Always tell a trusted adult.
- Use agreed safety plans and safe words where appropriate.

Teaching Approaches and Adaptations

In recognition of the complex and diverse needs of pupils attending Our Lady of Good Counsel School, staff will utilise:

- Visual schedules and visual supports.
- First-Then boards.
- AAC systems and communication devices.
- Social stories.
- Sensory regulation supports.
- Structured role-play activities.
- Repetition and overlearning.
- Small group and individual instruction.
- Positive behaviour supports and reinforcement systems.

Assessment

Pupil learning will be assessed through:

- Observation of participation.
- Responses during discussion and role-play.
- Matching and sorting activities.
- Practical demonstrations of safety skills.
- Teacher records and anecdotal notes.

Assessment will be adapted to individual pupil abilities and communication methods.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

All Stay Safe lessons will be delivered within the school's Child Safeguarding Framework.

Should a pupil make a disclosure during any lesson:

- The staff member will respond calmly and supportively.

- No promises of secrecy will be made.
- Information will be recorded in accordance with school procedures.
- Concerns will be reported in line with the school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Child Protection Procedures.

Parent and Guardian Engagement

Parents and guardians will be informed when the Stay Safe Programme is being taught and encouraged to reinforce key safety messages at home. Information and resources may be shared where appropriate.

Roles and Responsibilities

Principal

- Oversees implementation of the programme.
- Ensures compliance with safeguarding requirements.

Teachers

- Deliver lessons appropriately and sensitively.
- Differentiate learning activities.
- Follow safeguarding procedures where concerns arise.

SNAs

- Support pupil participation and engagement.
- Assist with communication and access needs.

Parents/Guardians

- Reinforce programme messages at home.
- Support children's understanding of personal safety.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Management and updated in line with Department of Education guidance, child protection requirements, and the evolving needs of pupils attending Our Lady of Good Counsel School.

Ratified by the Board of Management: _____

Chairperson: _____

Date:20/04/2021

Chairperson: Harold brooks

Review Date: June 2024