



## **Policy on the Stay Safe Programme**

St. Joseph's NS 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 principal aim of the programme is to prevent both physical and sexual abuse of children.

Under Child Protection Guidelines all schools are obliged to teach the Stay Safe programme. The Stay Safe Programme has been updated and from the 2017/2018 school year onwards the new Stay Safe Programme will be implemented.

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.

Children from Junior infants to sixth class participate in formal lessons on the Stay Safe Programme.

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.

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) for any further information.

In the event that a parent withdraws their child from the Stay Safe Programme a written record of their 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 the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2019.