



Westport Educate Together National School

Stay Safe Policy

Overview of policy

Westport Educate Together National School 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 aim of the programme is to prevent both physical and sexual abuse of children.

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Created By	Niall Quinn (Principal)
Signed by Principal	
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Approved by Chairperson name	Linda McNulty
Approved by Chairperson signature	
Approved by Board Date	
Date of next review	



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1. Rationale

Under Child Protection Guidelines all schools are obliged to teach the Stay Safe programme. The Stay Safe Programme has been updated and the revised Stay Safe Programme will be implemented in its totality in each class in the school.

2. Stay Safe

Stay Safe is taught as part of the Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum. As per best practice recommendations it will be covered as follows: The Stay Safe programme will be taught in its entirety in Senior Infants, 2nd Class, 4th Class and 6th Class. Mini lessons will take place in all other years. (Appendix 1: Stay Safe Vocabulary). Children from Junior Infants to Sixth Class participate in formal lessons on the Stay Safe Programme.

Parents/carers 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 their programme.

Parents are informed in advance of commencement of teaching the Stay Safe Programme. They are directed to www.pdst.ie/staysafe to see the content of the lessons and for any further information they might need. They may also meet with their child's class teacher to review the material being taught.

In the event that a parent informs the school that they wish to withdraw their child from the Stay Safe Programme, a written record of their reasons for doing is required from the parent. This is retained on the child's school file.

3. Implementation

a. Roles and Responsibilities

The Principal (overseen by the BOM) is responsible for overseeing and supporting the implementation of the Stay Safe aspect of the SPHE Programme.

Class teachers are responsible for the implementation of Stay Safe Programme in their classes, including the distribution of relevant information and notes to parents/carers.

b. Timeframe

This whole-school policy will be implemented from 2022-23 school year.



4. Review

Prior to the launch of this Stay Safe policy, a draft policy was reviewed by staff members and distributed to the Parents/Carers. The policy will be reviewed in 2027 or before then should the need arise or if changes are made to the curriculum or SPHE or Stay Safe programmes.

5. Ratification and Communication

The attention of all newly appointed staff will be drawn to this policy.

This policy will be published on the school website. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department of Education and Skills and the Patron, if requested. Hard copies of this, and all school policies, are available at the school upon request.

Appendix 1: Stay Safe Key Vocabulary

Topic 1: Feeling Safe and Unsafe

Infants	1 st /2 nd	3 rd /4 th	5 th /6 th
Excited	Frightened	Comfortable	Pity
Happy	Pleased	Embarrassed	Empathy
Scared	Annoyed	Enthusiastic	Sympathy
Upset	Hurt	Foolish	Lonely
Sad	Sorry	Guilty	Depressed
Angry	Calm	Worried	Confused
		Jealous	Exhilarated
		Frustrated	Impatient
		Cheerful	Excluded
		Stupid	Delighted

Topic 2: Friendship and Bullying

Infants	1 st /2 nd	3 rd /4 th	5 th /6 th
Friend (ship)	Respect	Courtesy	Resolve
Sharing	Interview	Honest	Pathetic
Thoughtful	Cyberbullying	Loyal	Offensive
Listening	On purpose	Unacceptable	Viral
Helping	Deliberately	Outcome	Body Language
Taking turns	Exclude	Physical	Assertive
Being fair	Include	Verbal	Tolerate



Bullying	Ignore	Emotional	
On purpose	Threaten	Identity	
Hurts	Rumour	Mimicking	
Frightens	Agreement	Racism	
More than once		Disability	
Co-operating		Homophobic	
Put-downs		Ethnic	
		Nationality	
		Observance	
		Country of Origin	
		Gender	
		Lesbian	
		Gay	

Topic 3: Touches

Infants	1 st /2 nd	3 rd /4 th	5 th /6 th
Private	Facial expression	Ungrateful	Sympathy
Public	Body language		Assertive
Personal	Embarrassed		Dilemma
Penis	Trust		Convince
Vagina			Opponent
Breast			Strategy
Confusing			
Senses – see, hear, smell, touch, taste			
Secret			



Topic 4: Secrets and Telling

Infants	1 st /2 nd	3 rd /4 th	5 th /6 th
Surprise	Pranks		Testicles
Uncomfortable	Blamed		Uncomplicated
Unsure	Dare		
Bribe	By accident		
Threat	Responsible		

Topic 5: Strangers

Infants	1 st /2 nd	3 rd /4 th	5 th /6 th
Stranger	Comments	Steward	Appropriately
Rules	Behave		Wary
Say no	Option		
Get away	Directions		
Tell	Nasty		



Appendix 2:

Child's Name: _____

Child's Class: _____

Teacher: _____

I wish to withdraw my child from the Stay Safe Programme, and I understand the alternative arrangements that may be made. The alternative arrangements are outlined in the school's whole-school RSE policy, and the same arrangements apply to the withdrawal of pupils from the Stay Safe Programme.

I am taking responsibility to cover the topics of the Stay Safe Programme with my child outside of school hours.

I understand that the school cannot guarantee that the other children will not inform my child about the content of these lessons. I am aware that the teacher may also need to make incidental reference to the topics covered at another time while my child is present.

Parent/Carer Signature: _____ Date: _____

A COPY OF THIS LETTER SHOULD BE KEPT ON THE CHILD'S FILE. A COPY OF THIS LETTER SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE CHILD'S PARENT/CARER FOR THEIR RECORDS.