

Bennettsbridge Mixed NS

Policy on the Stay Safe Programme

What is Stay Safe ?

The Stay Safe Programme is a mandatory personal safety skills programme researched and developed by the Child Abuse Prevention Programme for Irish Primary Schools. Its overall objective is to prevent child abuse, bullying and other forms of victimisation.

How is Stay Safe Taught?

In Bennettsbridge Mixed NS. we adopt a whole school approach to teaching the Revised Stay Safe Programme. All classes participate in the programme on a two yearly cycle. It is taught in its entirety as part of the Social Personal and Health Education Curriculum under the section 'Personal Safety' of the Safety and Protection strand unit. Teachers ensure that topics are taught consecutively as each topic builds on the learning from the previous topic. The lessons of the Stay Safe programme are spiral in nature, where similar content is revisited at each level but the processes, approaches and information adopted are designed to reflect the needs of children at a particular time and at their various stages of readiness.

Content of the Revised Stay Safe Programme

| Stay Safe Topic & No of Lessons | Junior and Senior Infants | 1 st & 2 nd | 3 rd & 4 th | 5 th & 6 th |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Feeling Safe and Unsafe | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Friendship and Bullying | 3 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Touches | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Secrets and Telling | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Strangers | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

The programme develops children's ability to recognise, resist and report risk situations or abusive encounters by teaching children...

- To identify for themselves unsafe or upsetting situations
- Simple rules to help them avoid abuse
- To respect and value the rights of others
- The language and skills they require to seek help.

How are parents/guardians involved in the programme?

As the most important people in a child's life it is essential that parents/guardians are involved in the programme. Programmes like Stay Safe are most effective when parents/guardians are actively involved in the process.

Before commencing the Stay Safe programme your child will bring home a letter from school detailing our intention to commence the programme, resources to access information and suggestions as to how parents can become involved.

Worksheets to accompany the lessons may be given as homework to your child or may be brought home for you to sign. It's important that you use these to discuss the content of the lesson with your child. Doing so will give you an insight into what your child is learning, and present an opportunity to discuss the issues involved in a way more personal than is possible in the classroom situation. It also gives you an opportunity to discuss personal safety issues with your child and to explain the safety rules that exist in your family.

Parental participation is an essential part of the programme both in terms of reinforcement and follow-up. Please contact the school if you wish to discuss the programme further, or if you have any queries or concerns.

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:

Date: _____

Signed: _____