

Bunscoil McAuley Rice Stay Safe Policy

Introduction:

This policy was devised in line with current recommendations and guidelines [Child Protection Guidelines & Procedures (DES) 2017 and Children First (TUSLA) 2017], relating to child abuse prevention and child protection.

The CAPP (Child Abuse Prevention Programme), more commonly known as Stay Safe, is a primary school based approach to the prevention of child abuse. The aim of the programme is to reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying through the provision of a personal safety education programme for children at primary school level.

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

Format:

Stay Safe is taught as part of the SPHE (Social Personal and Health Education) curriculum and as per best practice recommendations, it will usually be taught in the second term of the year. A teacher may decide to revisit topics at other times during the year if the need arises. As outlined in the programme guidelines, individual adaptations or supports will be put in place for certain pupils with special educational needs. Children from Junior Infants to Sixth Class participate in formal lessons from the Stay Safe Programme.

Collaboration:

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.

Parents will be informed in advance of commencement of teaching the Stay Safe Programme by the class teacher. They are directed to www.pdst.ie/staysafe to see the content of the lessons and for any further information they might need. In the event that a parent wishes to withdraw their child from the Stay Safe Programme a written record of their reasons for doing so must be provided to the school and the school is required to keep this on file.

Continuous Professional Development:

Staff and members of the Board of Management will be facilitated to attend CPD training on the revised Stay Safe programme.

Companion Documents:

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
- RSE Policy
- SPHE Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- Child Protection Guidelines & Procedures (DES) 2017
- Children First (TUSLA) 2017

Implementation, Review and Communication:

This policy was fully reviewed, approved and adopted by the Board of Management on 25th May, 2021. The Board of Management will monitor the implementation of all aspects of this policy and amend as required. The policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier, if necessary.