

Stay Safe Policy

Scoil Bhríde, Rathcormac

▪ **Introductory Statement**

The staff and management of Scoil Bhríde, Rathcormac have developed and agreed this policy in line with current recommendations and guidelines relating to child safeguarding and child abuse prevention, particularly 'Stay Safe. Best Practice in Child Protection: Guidelines for Schools' produced by the PDST. This policy works in tandem with our Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) policy (*See Appendix 1*).

The staff of Scoil Bhríde will always ensure that the safety and well-being of our pupils is our highest priority. Staff work consistently to build a safe, caring, responsive environment and we are continually promoting safety awareness and personal safety skills in both discrete and incidental ways. Staff are also constantly aware of positively supporting pupils in reporting any issues or concerns that they might have.

▪ **Aims**

- Put in place procedures for good practice in the area of personal safety and child abuse prevention.
- Create a safe, trusting, responsive and caring environment in our school.
- Provide a discrete personal safety skills education programme which specifically addresses abuse and abuse prevention for pupils.
- Increase awareness and develop responsibility in the area of child protection throughout the school community.
- Provide for ongoing training in Stay Safe and related areas for all school staff.

▪ **Stay Safe**

Scoil Bhríde uses the Stay Safe programme. This is a personal safety and child abuse prevention programme. It is taught as part of the school's SPHE curriculum under the strand unit: Safety and Protection.

The objectives of the Stay Safe programme are as follows:

- To teach about Feelings, Friendship and Bullying
- To develop children's self-esteem, assertiveness and self-protective skills.
- How to identify and deal with an inappropriate or unsafe touch
- That it is ok to say 'no' to an adult in a situation where they feel unsafe, threatened or frightened.
- To identify adults whom they should tell if they are feeling frightened, threatened, worried or unsafe in any way.
- To understand how someone might bribe, trick or threaten to keep a secret
- It is never their fault if they are victimised or abused
- They should never go anywhere with or take anything from a stranger
- Appropriate language for telling (*See Appendix 2: Stay Safe Language Infants – 6th*)
- To give children the skills necessary to enable them to recognise and resist abuse /victimisation /bullying
- To teach the rules – i) Say No, Get Away and Tell and ii) Never Keep Touch A Secret

The Stay Safe Programme delivers a developmentally structured series of lessons for each age level under the topic headings: 'Feeling Safe and Unsafe', 'Friendship and Bullying', 'Touches', 'Secrets and Telling' and 'Strangers'.

It is the policy of the school that the Stay Safe programme is taught in every class every second year.

- **Review**

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Board of Management as deemed necessary.

- **Ratification and Implementation**

The Policy was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management at its meeting on 14/03/2019

The Policy was made available to all staff. Parents were advised of the availability of the Policy on the school website (www.sbrathcormac.ie) and a paper copy of the Policy is available for perusal through the Secretary's Office.

This policy will be implemented from April 2019

Canon Michael Leamy (Chairperson)

Margaret Howard (Principal)

Signed: _____

Date: _____

STAY SAFE LANGUAGE – INFANTS – 6TH CLASS

Vocabulary	Infants	1 st / 2 nd	3 rd / 4 th	5 th / 6 th
Topic 1 Feeling Safe and Unsafe	Excited Happy Scared Upset Sad Angry	Frightened Pleased Annoyed Hurt Sorry Calm	Comfortable Embarrassed Enthusiastic Foolish Guilty Worried Jealous Frustrated Cheerful Stupid	Pity Empathy Sympathy Lonely Depressed Confused Exhilarated Impatient Excluded Delighted
Topic 2 Bullying	Friend / Friendship Sharing Thoughtful Listening Helping Taking turns Being fair Bullying On purpose Hurts Frightens More than once Co-operating Put-downs	Respect Interview Cyberbullying Agreement Deliberately Exclude Include Ignore Threaten Rumour	Courtesy Honest Loyal Unacceptable Outcome Physical Verbal Emotional Identity Mimicking Disability Ethnic Nationality Observance Country of origin Gender Racism <i>Homophobic**</i> <i>Lesbian **</i> <i>Gay **</i>	Resolve Pathetic Offensive Viral Body language Assertive Tolerate
Topic 3 Touches	Private /Public Personal Penis Vagina Breast * Confusing	Facial expression Body language Embarrassed Trust	Ungrateful Uncomfortable Genitals*	Sympathy Assertive Dilemma Convince Opponent Strategy
Topic 4 Secrets and Telling	Surprise Uncomfortable Unsure Bribe Threat	Pranks Blamed Dare By accident Responsible		Testicles Uncomplicated
Topic 5	Stranger	Comments		

Strangers	Rules Say no / Get away / Tell	Behave Option Directions Nasty	Steward	Appropriately Wary
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Please Note

- Language marked with * (breast, genitals) indicates new language that is linked to RSE lessons. This language will be included and taught in RSE lessons
- RSE Lessons will be taught in term 2, February 2018, before the Stay Safe lessons (therefore all current language in our RSE policy and lessons, and the new language * marked above, will be covered before new Stay Safe lessons)
- See updated RSE language grid for current lessons and language update
- Language marked with ** and in italics, (*homophobic, gay, lesbian*) are only to be taught in the Stay Safe lessons in 3rd/4th class, not in RSE lessons.
- As this is the language of the new updated Stay Safe programme, please note that language from the previous year level may need to be also revised/taught e.g – 1st/2nd classes also need to look at the language from the infants level etc.