



## **Corpus Christi Primary School Stay Safe Programme Policy**

In Corpus Christi Primary School, the Stay Safe Programme is an integral part of the SPHE programme. The Stay Safe Programme 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.

The Stay Safe programme itself is a personal safety skills programme designed for use with primary school children, from Junior Infants through to 6th class. The programme seeks to enhance children's self-protective skills, by participation in lessons on safe and unsafe situations, bullying, inappropriate touch, secrets, telling and stranger danger.

The programme aims to give children the skills necessary, to enable them to recognise and resist abuse/victimisation and teaches them that they should always tell (an adult that can help) about any situation which they find unsafe, upsetting, threatening, dangerous or abusive.

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

Curricular provision can be achieved through the full implementation of the Stay Safe programme, as part of the school's SPHE curriculum, under the Strand unit Safety and Protection.

### **Objectives of the Programme**

- to develop children's self-esteem, assertiveness and self protective skills.
- to teach children that they should always tell an adult about any situation which they find unsafe, upsetting, threatening, dangerous or abusive.
- to give children the skills necessary to enable them to recognise and resist abuse/victimisation/bullying.
- to teach the rules – Say No, Get Away and Tell and.

Stay Safe is taught as part of the SPHE (Social Personal and Health Education). Children from junior infants to sixth class participate in formal lessons of the Stay Safe Programme. The Stay Safe Programme is taught each year during the months of January and February. Specific lessons may need more time to deliver. In this case, teachers bank their SPHE hours, or use discretionary time. The content of the programme is reinforced regularly, whenever an opportunity arises in the school setting.

Parents/Guardians are informed that the Stay Safe Programme is taught in the school and are invited to talk to the teachers with regard to this and the other programmes, that are used to promote the wellbeing, confidence and resilience of our pupils.

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.