

Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS

Stay Safe Policy

Introduction and Rationale

The Board of Management and Staff of Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS wish to do everything possible to ensure the safety and protection of the pupils in our school. To that end, this policy was devised in line with current recommendations and guidelines - *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017* and *Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017* - relating to child abuse prevention and child protection.

The CAPP (Child Abuse Prevention Programme), more commonly known as *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.

Aim

The programme aims to give children the skills necessary to enable them to recognise and resist abuse or 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.

Content

The *Stay Safe Programme* 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 revised *Stay Safe Programme* is presented at four levels in line with the Primary School Curriculum. At Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS, the *Stay Safe Programme* is taught in every class in Term 3 of each school year, as part of the SPHE (Social Personal and Health Education) curriculum. Children from Junior Infants to Sixth class participate in formal lessons on the *Stay Safe Programme*. A teacher may decide to revisit topics at other times in the year, if the need arises. Staff will make every effort to ensure that the messages of the programme are reinforced whenever possible.

Communication and Collaboration

It is considered good practice to inform parents in advance of commencement that the Stay Safe Programme is due to be taught. Parents/Guardians will be directed to <http://www.staysafe.ie/parents.htm>, <https://www.webwise.ie/parents/> and www.pdst.ie/staysafe for further information. This will be done through a written notification in the school newsletter. Parents and Guardians are encouraged to become involved in the programme by discussing each lesson with their child and by helping their child to complete worksheets based on the lessons.

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 will be required and it will be kept on file.

Staff will be facilitated to attend CPD training on the revised Stay Safe programme whenever possible.

Review and Ratification

This plan was ratified by the Board of Management at a meeting on 17th December 2019

Review Date

November 2021

