



St. Joseph's Primary School
Mitchel Street
Dungarvan
Co. Waterford

Whole School Plan for

SPHE

Introductory Statement

The staff of St. Joseph's Primary School formulated this school plan for SPHE, in consultation with our Board of Management and our Parents, as we believe that SPHE is a shared responsibility and their contributions and involvement will be essential to the effective implementation of the SPHE programme in the school.

Rationale

We wish to update and formalise our current practice in the teaching of SPHE and plan for it on a whole school basis.

Vision and Aims

Our school values the uniqueness of all individuals within a caring school community. We recognise that SPHE is intrinsic to the teaching and learning that occurs both formally and informally in the school and in the classroom. Through our SPHE programme we wish to assist children to develop feelings of self-worth and self-confidence while encouraging their ability to relate to others in a positive way. The programme also encourages children to be aware of their rights as individuals while at the same time accepting responsibility for their actions as members of the school and the wider community. Parents have the primary role in the social, personal and health education of their children so their involvement will be encouraged as much as possible.

We emphasise and endorse the aims and objectives of the curriculum for Social, Personal and Health Education. Our SPHE lessons aim to:

- (a) Enable the children to develop an awareness of their responsibilities to others in a caring community.
- (b) Enable the children to take greater control of their personal lives as individuals.
- (c) Encourage the children to be active in determining their own learning.

Content of Plan

The Curriculum is divided into three strands: Myself, Myself and others, and Myself and the wider world.

Each of these strands is further subdivided into a number of strand units or topic areas that contain particular objectives from the designated programmes used at each class level.

St. Joseph's Primary School will teach aspects of all three major strand units each year. We have created the following timetable to be followed each year.

<u>Term 1</u>	<u>Term 2</u>	<u>Term 3</u>
Walk Tall	RSE Programme	Stay Safe

Teachers can also use some of the following programmes to supplement their teaching in the strand units of SPHE. Using their own discretion teachers can decide to prioritise a programme based on the needs that arise with their individual class grouping. Programmes can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Webwise
- Be Safe
- Zippy's Friends
- Friend's for Life

RSE Policy:

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) aims to provide opportunities for children and young people to learn about relationships and sexuality in ways that help them think and act in a moral, caring and responsible way. In term 2 each year all classes will follow the Department of Education RSE programme suitable for their class level. Parents/Guardians will be informed in writing (see appendix 1) at the beginning of term 2 each year about the commencement of the RSE programme in their child's class.

However, it is St. Joseph's school policy that sexually sensitive objectives (including all terminology for sensitive body parts) of the RSE programme will **only** be covered in 6th class. The sexually sensitive issues will be taught by a suitable guest speaker. The guest speaker will use the contents of the RSE programme as set down by the Department of Education and the Busy Bodies programme laid out by the HSE. In delivering the sexually sensitive objectives of RSE to the 6th class pupils the guest speaker will be informed of the need for the development of attitudes and values consistent with the ethos of our school. In the case of St. Joseph's Primary school this ethos is Roman Catholic.

The 6th class RSE presentation will take place in Term 2. Parents will be informed in writing of the date of the presentation and given an invitation to attend. In the event that a parent withdraws their child from the RSE presentation a written record of their reasons for doing so will be kept on file.

When a guest speaker addresses the children in SPHE, the class teacher will remain in the classroom (as per Circular 22/2010). When a guest speaker addresses the parents in SPHE, the Principal and HSCL will be present. All guest speakers will be made aware of relevant school plans and policies.

Stay Safe Policy:

The Stay Safe Programme aims to reduce the pupils vulnerability to child abuse and bullying through the provision of personal safety education for children which will include issues such as physical, emotional and sexual abuse as well as bullying and stranger danger. Children are taught that it is not their fault if they are bullied or abused. The principal aim of the programme is to prevent both physical and sexual abuse. In term 3 each year all classes will follow the Department of Education funded Stay Safe programme suitable for their class level.

Parents/Guardians will be informed in writing (see appendix 2) at the beginning of term 3 each year about the commencement of the Stay Safe programme in their child's class. 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. 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.

Contexts for SPHE:

SPHE will be taught in St. Joseph's Primary School through a combination of the following contexts:

- **Positive School Climate and Atmosphere**
St. Joseph's Primary School has created a positive atmosphere by:
 - building effective communication
 - catering for individual needs
 - creating a health-promoting physical environment
 - developing democratic processes
 - enhancing self-esteem
 - fostering respect for diversity
 - fostering inclusive and respectful language
 - developing appropriate communication
 - developing a school approach to assessment

- **Discrete time for SPHE**
SPHE is allocated ½ hour per week on each teacher's timetable in St. Joseph's Primary School. However teachers may allocate 1 hour per fortnight to allow for more in-depth exploration of a strand unit.

- **Integration with other subject areas and Linkage within SPHE**
Teachers will endeavour to adopt a thematic approach to SPHE by integrating it with other subject areas such as Language, Geography, History, Religion, Visual Arts, Physical Education, etc. Themes/Projects such as Food Dudes, St. Joseph's House Points, Lenten Campaign, etc. will also be explored. Themes/Projects promoted may differ on a yearly basis.

Approaches and Methodologies:

St. Joseph's Primary School believe that the approaches and methodologies used in SPHE are crucial to the effectiveness of the programme. Active learning is the principal learning and teaching approach recommended for SPHE, therefore we will endeavour to teach SPHE using a variety of strategies which include:

- drama activities
- co-operative games
- use of pictures
- photographs and visual images
- written activities

- use of media
- information technologies and looking at children’s work

Assessment:

Assessment is a central part of the everyday learning and teaching process in SPHE. It can provide valuable information on the child’s progress and on the effectiveness and suitability of the programme and the teaching methods being used.

St. Joseph’s Primary School uses the following recommended informal tools for assessment in SPHE:

- Teacher observation
- Teacher-designed tasks and tests
- Portfolios and projects

Children with Different Needs:

Teachers will endeavour to adapt and modify activities and methodologies in SPHE to encourage participation by children with special needs. The SET teachers will supplement the work of the class teachers where necessary. St. Joseph’s Primary School will liaise with trained professionals/appropriate agencies when dealing with sensitive issues such as bereavement or loss to ensure that the children involved are fully supported.

Equality of Participation and Access:

St. Joseph’s Primary school recognises and values diversity, and believes all children are entitled to access the services, facilities, or amenities that are available in the school environment. Ours is a boys only school and we endeavour to ensure that equal opportunities are given to all boys to participate in discussion, debate, presentation, etc. St. Joseph’s Primary School is under Roman Catholic school management, and we endeavour to provide for Members of Travelling community, Children with disabilities, Families with literacy difficulties, Children who are learning English as a second language etc.

Policies and Programmes that support SPHE:

Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection • Anti-Bullying • Substance Use • Code of Behaviour • Enrolment • Health and Safety

Programmes

- St. Joseph's House Points System
- Ceannaire Boys
- Food Dudes
- Green Flag
- Friends for Life
- Zippy's Friends
- The Zones of Regulation
- Retracking Anger Management Programme
- Incredible Years
- Be Safe
- Talkabout
- Trocaire Box Collection
- Christmas Shoe Box Appeal
- Art Therapy
- Zeeko Internet Safety Talks
- Anti Bullying Services Pat Courtney

Homework:

Homework, when prescribed in SPHE, will reinforce information already taught during class. Stay Safe Worksheets will be signed by parents and in doing so act as a means of communicating the content of the lessons covered.

Individual Teachers' Planning and Reporting:

This plan in SPHE and the curriculum documents will inform and guide teachers in their long and short term planning in SPHE. Each teacher will keep a Cuntas Míósúil and this will inform our progress and needs when evaluating and reviewing our progress in SPHE.

Staff Development:

Training opportunities in the RSE and Stay Safe programmes will support an effective implementation of the SPHE programme.

Teachers are also encouraged to attend SPHE related courses and will share information/skills acquired at these courses with other members of staff during staff meetings.

Parental Involvement:

Parental involvement is considered an integral part to effectively implementing SPHE as St. Joseph's Primary School believe that SPHE is a shared responsibility. This plan and the curriculum documents are available for parents to inform them of the programme for SPHE.

Community Links:

St. Joseph's Primary School believe that the local community has a very important role to play in supporting the programme in SPHE and endeavour to liaise with local community members such as the Public Health Nurse, Firemen, Dog's Trust, Road Safety Authority, Gardai and Water Safety Personnel.

Success Criteria

The success of this plan will be evaluated through teacher's planning and preparation. We will monitor planning and preparation of lessons to ensure the procedures outlined in this plan have been consistently followed. We will also judge its success if the children have been enabled to achieve the aims outlined in this plan.

Implementation

(a) Roles and Responsibilities:

St. Joseph's Primary School believes that the school community must be involved to successfully implement SPHE. Therefore the teaching staff will implement this plan with the support of the Board of Management, Parents and the Local Community.

(b) Timeframe:

The plan will be implemented after ratification by the Board of Management.

Review

(a) Roles and Responsibilities:

It will be necessary to review this plan on a regular basis to ensure optimum implementation of the SPHE curriculum in the school. Principal and SPHE coordinator are responsible for co-ordinating this review.

Those involved in the review will include:

Teachers

Pupils

Parents Council

SPHE Coordinator

Board of Management

(b) Timeframe:

This plan will be reviewed when necessary.

Ratification and Communication

The Board of Management of St. Joseph's Primary School ratified this plan on
10th April 2019.

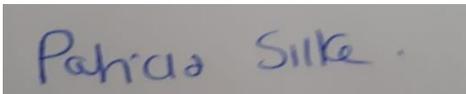


Signed:

(Chairperson of Board of Management)



(Principal)



(Chairperson Parents Council)