



NSPCC Keeping Safe

St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor



'Quality Learning, Friendship For All'

Keeping Safe Policy

Written by Miss A Higgins (DT)

Ratified by Governors – Sept 2017

Review Schedule: Every Two Years – Next Review Sept 2019

This document outlines our school's approach to teaching the NSPCC Keeping Safe programme developed by NSPCC Northern Ireland and the Department of Education Northern Ireland.

This document should be used in conjunction with a range of other school policies and guidelines including:

- Safeguarding & Child Protection
- PD&MU
- E-safety
- ICT
- Staff Code of Conduct Practice
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- RSE

Introduction

While we recognise that parents are the primary educators of their children, we realise that our school is well placed to provide strong support and care for our children and help keep them safe.

We recognise that in order for our children to learn best they must be free from stress and worry. We recognise the importance of the social and emotional wellbeing of our children and take a holistic approach to their development academically as well as socially, physically and emotionally.

Vision and Values

Every pupil has a right to feel safe and secure and to be taught Keeping Safe messages in our school so that they recognise abuse and know how to seek help. Children will know who the 'Safeguarding Team' members are and how they are there to help. Photographs of these members of staff will be displayed around the school for children to see. Children will know they can speak to any member of staff and will be aware of good times to talk about worries they might have.

Rationale

In today's society for many people, there is still a real lack of knowledge about child abuse and about the long term effects on children of such abuse.

NSPCC estimates that 1 in 4 children will be affected by abuse and 1 in 20 affected by sexual abuse.

Teachers and parents have reported that although they know it **is vital** to talk to their children about abuse they do not always feel they have the skills and ability to do so.

Alarming, this can put children at risk because many children don't know what abuse is nor that it is wrong.

Some children may have been tricked into believing that abusive behaviour is normal and they may not know what to do or how to get help.

Aims

- **To recognise education as integral to preventing abuse in childhood.**
- **To adopt a whole school approach to delivering preventative education in our school.**
- **To provide parents and all school staff with the training and support necessary to deliver Keeping Safe messages.**

Objectives

Our school has three main areas of responsibility with regard to the prevention of child abuse.

Our school should be a safe, trusting, responsive and caring environment for children. All members of staff have an individual responsibility in this regard. Good working relations with external agencies are important in creating this protective environment for children.

Our school has a key role to play in the provision of key messages about keeping safe, as outlined in the PD&MU curriculum. As educators, teachers can deliver the key messages outlined in the Keeping Safe programme and give their pupils an opportunity to practice the specific skills involved.

All our staff are familiar with the Department of Education NI guidelines on responding appropriately to suspicions or disclosures of child abuse. Parents will be aware of the Child Protection Procedures in place, the schools safeguarding

responsibilities and the action they are required to take if they have any safeguarding concerns.

Information leaflets regarding access to the Child Protection Policy/Procedures were sent out September 2017 and are available @ www.stcomgallsps.co.uk

Keeping Safe

The Keeping Safe programme provides an integrated, developmentally staged and comprehensive approach to teaching children keeping safe messages.

This involves:

- A whole school approach to implementation
- Comprehensive training for all school staff
- Parent workshops/information sessions
- Keeping Safe lessons for children P1-P7

Whole School Approach

It is the view of our school that the Keeping Safe programme should not be taught in isolation, but rather as an integral part of the PD&MU curriculum, the informal curriculum and fully embedded in every aspect of school life.

Training

It is important that all school staff are involved in comprehensive training before the introduction of the programme. Training provided by the CPSSS and delivered by the Designated Teacher should also take place to ensure all staff are aware of the procedures and policies in place in relation to safeguarding and child protection.

Parent Education

Parental participation is an essential part of the Keeping Safe programme. Our school will host Keeping Safe parent information meetings when the programme is first being introduced to pupils.

The objectives of this parents evening should be:

1. To ensure that parents or guardians have an accurate knowledge of all forms of child abuse and understand what bullying is.

2. To inform parents about their vital role in protecting children from child abuse and bullying.
3. To enhance communication and thereby help children to confide in their parents. Children may only tell about serious matters if they have previously experienced a positive response to minor problems which they have encountered.
4. To help parents understand the key messages of Keeping Safe so they can reinforce messages with their children.
5. To assist parents to help their children in the following areas:
 - To understand their rights as a child. (Not to be harmed, to feel loved, looked after and secure etc)
 - To know what a health relationship is. (At home or with friends, offline and/or online)
 - To know that their body belongs to them. That some touches are inappropriate and privates are private.
 - To talk about secrets that worry or confuse them.
 - To understand that people use bribes, threats and manipulations to get what they want.
 - To know the dangers of being online and not to share personal information or photographs online without parental supervision.
 - To know the effects of bullying and how to deal with it online or offline.
 - Help their children identify who their safe adults are at home and at school.
 - Ensure their child knows how to get help and understands the importance of telling someone when they are worried about something that has happened to them or someone else.
6. To provide a supportive environment in which parents can explore the issue of child abuse and can ask any questions they may have.

The Keeping Safe Programme for Children

Most children will already have learned rules which are designed to protect them, such as road safety or fire safety.

Personal safety should be a natural part of every child's education.

The aim of the Keeping Safe programme is to reduce vulnerability to all forms of abuse and bullying.

The programme develops children's ability to recognise, resist and report risky situations or abusive encounters.

The Keeping Safe programme teaches children prevention, while preserving their sense of the world around them as a basically safe and secure place.

This approach allows children to exercise control, to be assertive, and enables them to seek help for any problem they may encounter.

The programme teaches strategies for dealing with various potentially dangerous situations and children are given the opportunity to practice these strategies in the classroom. Thus, the concepts are translated into skills which become part of the child's repertoire of self-protective behaviour.

Methodology

In recognition of the fact that we all learn in different ways a range of learning styles and teaching strategies have been employed related to active learning. These approaches will maximise opportunities for pupil input, role play, decision-making and problem-solving.

- Lessons will be conducted in a non-judgemental way with the teacher in the role of the facilitator, creating and maintaining a safe and secure environment. Empathetic relationships based on mutual respect will be developed to create a place where fears and concerns can be expressed openly without risk of ridicule.
- Our school will have Keeping Safe timetabled for at least 3 structured lessons per term. When lessons are being taught children will have agreed a set of rules to ensure confidentiality (a set of cue cards may be used).
- When teachers are teaching sensitive messages they will have a 'Do not disturb' sign outside the classroom to protect privacy and highlight the sensitive nature of the issues being discussed.
- If a child wishes to talk freely about something which may alarm/upset other children the teacher will agree a time to speak with the child after the lesson. This will allow the teacher to move on with the lesson while ensuring the child knows that the teacher will make time to talk to them about whatever is worrying them.
- The delivery of the lessons will ensure that children understand that they have a right to be happy and safe.
- They will learn what to tell, when to tell, who to tell and how to tell. They will practice this skill and become more confident and assertive.
- PD&MU will continue to be taught in line with these policy guidelines and half term planners monitored by the PD&MU co-ordinator .

Managing the content delivered by external agencies

Our school recognises the importance of ensuring that any external agencies used to support our delivery of Personal Safety must adhere to the values and ethos particular to our school.

Monitoring and evaluation

This school recognises and accepts the importance of monitoring and evaluating all aspects of the Keeping Safe curriculum. To this end we follow the procedures for self-evaluation as outlined in the DE document 'Together Towards Improvement' and 'Every School A Good School'.

The PD& MU co-ordinator has responsibility for Monitoring and Evaluation of the PD&MU planners which will include planning and teaching of the Keeping safe programme. They are also responsible for gathering evidence each term from each class ensuring that teaching and learning is taking place.

The PD&MU co-ordinator may also wish to observe a Keeping Safe lesson or speak to the children to assess their learning. The PD&MU co-ordinator should keep good records of all of this for evaluation purposes.

Roles and responsibilities

Keeping Safe is a sensitive area of the curriculum and one which could raise anxiety among some staff, and may lead to an increase in pupil disclosure and potential onward referrals. Our school recognises that this is a team approach. We work together as far as possible to share responsibility.

The role of the Principal is to:

- Lead the planning for the programme ensuring it becomes part of the ethos of the school and practiced through example.
- Provide support to the Keeping Safe team and other school staff as the programme is implemented.
- Ensure time and resources are made available for planning, training, policy development and programme delivery.

The role of the Designated Teacher for Child protection is to:

- Ensure Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy includes Keeping Safe.
- Support staff with concerns about delivering Keeping Safe lessons.
- Pass on safeguarding / C.P. information to relevant teachers of children who may have experienced significant harm in the past /are on the Child Protection Register for a specific form of abuse.
- Reassure parents who have concerns about Keeping Safe.

- Ensure safeguarding concerns are reported appropriately.
- Report to the Board of Governors as per procedure.

The role of the PD&MU Co-ordinator is to:

- Attend any relevant training provided.
- Support teachers in the delivery of lessons and the sharing of practice.
- Monitor and evaluate Keeping Safe in planning.
- Evaluate the learning of Keeping Safe messages.

Our Safeguarding Team has the following members:

- Mrs Cathy Hunter
- Miss Anne Higgins
- Miss Julie-Anne Mullally

Ref: Visitors Code of Conduct
Safeguarding Policy

Policy updated by Anne Higgins (DT) February 2017

Next review: September 2019 - Reviewed by A Higgins / C Hunter
No Amendments needed

Next Review: September 2021

NSPCC