



## **Stay Safe Programme**

The Stay Safe programme is a joint initiative between Departments of Health and Education and has been endorsed by all the parties in Education. Co-operation between parents and teachers is essential to the success of this programme.

The aim of the Stay Safe programme is to teach children personal safety skills so they can look after themselves in situations which could be upsetting or dangerous. It deals initially with common situations which most children will experience at some stage or another, e.g. getting lost or being bullied. The programme also teaches children the safety skills necessary to protect themselves from physical or sexual abuse. Essentially the programme teaches children to tell a trusted adult about any problems they may have. It is mandatory to teach the Stay Safe Programme in all Primary schools. (All schools must fully implement the Stay Safe Programme Department Circular 65/2011). It will be taught in our school every year.. If you do not wish your child to participate in the Stay Safe Programme, you must indicate that you will teach them a similar safety programme at home .

### **What Does the Programme Do ?**

- The programme develops children's ability to recognise, resist and report risk situations or abusive encounters by teaching children;
- To identify for themselves unsafe or upsetting situations
- Simple rules to help them avoid abuse
- To respect and value the rights of others
- The language and skills they require to seek help

### **How are Parents/Guardians Involved in the Programme?**

It's essential that you're involved in the programme because parents/guardians are the most important people in a child's life, and your child is most likely to turn to you for help when upset or worried. It's been shown that programmes like Stay Safe are most effective when parents/guardians are actively involved in the process.

Worksheets to accompany the lessons may be given as homework to your child or may be brought home for you to sign. It's important that you use these to discuss the content of the lesson with your child. Doing so will give you an insight into what your child is learning, and present an opportunity to discuss the issues involved in a way more personal than is possible in the classroom situation. It also gives you an opportunity to discuss personal safety issues with your child and to explain the safety rules that exist in your family. Children have sometimes used the worksheets to tell their parents/guardians about problems.

A very good guide to the Stay Safe Programme including a section for parents is available on [www.staysafe.ie](http://www.staysafe.ie)

You will be informed when the programme is to be taught and if you wish to opt out at that stage, please inform the class teacher.

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