

Stay Safe

What is Stay Safe?

Stay Safe is a personal safety skills programme which aims to:-

- give children the skills necessary to enable them to recognise and resist abuse/victimisation.
- teach children that they should always tell an adult about any situation which they find unsafe, upsetting, threatening, dangerous or abusive.
- develop children's self-esteem, assertiveness and self-protective skills.

What does the programme do?

The Stay Safe Programme is a personal safety skills programme for primary schools - both mainstream and special. Its overall objective is to prevent child abuse, bullying and other forms of victimisation.

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.

The programme also informs parents and teachers about preventing bullying and child abuse, whilst seeking to create a greater public awareness about the problems children can and do experience.

How is the programme taught?

Ideally, children are taught the content of the Stay Safe lessons in the classroom by their usual class teacher, and then discuss the lessons at home with their parents. Teachers and parents work together to ensure that children learn the skills they need to keep safe.

The programme consists of four sets of lessons, as outlined here:

<i>Classroom</i>	<i>No. of Lessons</i>	<i>Lesson Duration</i>
<i>Junior Room</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>30 minutes</i>
<i>Senior Room</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>30 minutes</i>

It's recommended that lessons are taught at the rate of one per week.

Children with Special Needs

Additional/supplementary lessons are available for children with special needs. This programme, entitled 'Personal Safety Skills for Children with Learning Difficulties', was published in 1996 and is designed for use with children who have visual impairment, cognitive learning difficulties, hearing impairment, physical disability or emotional and behavioural difficulties.

What will the children learn?

The lessons teach children about what to do if they're frightened or upset. One of the central messages children learn is that if they ever have a problem, they should tell an adult they know and trust.

How are parents involved in the programme?

As the most important people in a child's life it is essential that parents/guardians are involved in the programme. 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.

Organisation

The Stay Safe programme will be taught in The Deanery School on alternate years.

Ratification and Communication

Parents may view a copy of this policy by appointment in the school.

