



STAY SAFE POLICY



Stay Safe Programme

Jonah Special School for Students with Autism and Complex Needs is a school providing special education to students from age 4 to 18 years. Jonah Special School teaches the Stay Safe Programme, a teaching package designed for use in Irish Primary Schools. It was researched and developed by the Child Abuse Prevention Programme (CAPP). The principal aim of the programme is to reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying through the provision of a personal safety education programme, CPD for teachers, training for Boards of Management and information sessions for parents.

The Stay Safe Programme itself is a personal safety skills programme designed for use with primary students. The programme seeks to enhance children's self-protection skills by participation in lessons on safe and unsafe situations, bullying, inappropriate touch, secrets, telling and "stranger danger". The programme aims to give children the skills necessary to enable them to recognise and resist abuse, victimisation and teaches them that they should always tell about any situation which they find unsafe, upsetting, threatening dangerous or abusive.

Under Child Protection Guidelines all schools are obliged to teach the Stay Safe Programme. The Stay Safe Programme has been updated and from the 2019/2020 school year onwards the new Stay Safe Programme will be implemented. Jonah Special School acknowledges that all of our students have a diagnosis of ASD and may be more vulnerable to abuse. We aim to teach this programme with this in mind.

Stay Safe is taught as part of the SPHE (Social Personal and Health Education) curriculum. Given the nature of our school and the needs of the students who attend Jonah Special School, it will be taught in conjunction with other curricula including The Zones of Regulation, ASDAN and RSE.

Students participate in formal lessons on the Stay Safe Programme. The programme is taught throughout the student's education time in the school.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to become involved and familiarise themselves with the Stay Safe Programme and reinforce elements of the Stay Safe Programme at home where appropriate. Parents can be directed to www.pdst.ie/staysafe for any further information.

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.

All teaching staff have attended CPD training in the revised Stay Safe programme in the 2019/2020 school year.



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This policy was adopted by the Board of Management of Jonah Special School at its meeting held on:

Ratified by the Jonah Board of Management on: _____

Date

Signed: _____

Principal

Signed: _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Next Review Period: **September 2027**