



Special School for Children with Autism and Complex Needs

## Policy on the Stay Safe Programme

ABACAS 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 pupils. 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 2017/2018 school year onwards the new Stay Safe Programme will be implemented. ABACAS acknowledges that all of our pupils 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 pupils who attend ABACAS Special School, it will be taught in conjunction with other curricula including So Safe and RSE.

Pupils participate in formal lessons on the Stay Safe Programme. The programme is taught every year.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to become involved and familiarise themselves with the Stay Safe Programme and re-inforce elements of the Stay Safe Programme at home where appropriate. Parents can be directed to [www.pdst.ie/staysafe](http://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 attended CPD training in the revised Stay Safe programme in November 2018.

This plan was ratified by the Board of Management at a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

Signed:

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*Chairperson of the Board of Management*