



# St. Fiachra's JS

## SPHE Whole School Plan

### UPDATED 2019

#### Introductory Statement and Rationale

##### (a) Introductory Statement

**St. Fiachra's JS** is a primary school under Catholic Patronage. It is a co-educational mainstream school with classes from Junior Infants to Second Class with a current enrolment of 672 pupils – 30th Sept 2018.

This revised plan replaces the previous school plan for SPHE and is effective from the 2019/20 school year. It will be brought to the attention of the BOM for final ratification and will then be available to the school community.

##### a) Rationale

*Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE) is a distinct subject on the school curriculum and it is currently taught in using approved educational programmes ie Stay Safe , Walk Tall, Relationships and Sexuality Education and Zippy's friends. SPHE is also integrated with other subject areas such as Aistear (Infants) Physical Education, Art, Music, Religion, Geography, etc.*

Relationships & Sexuality Education (including the sensitive lesson/s) will be taught to all class levels each year in the context of the SPHE curriculum. c/f RSE policy

The **Stay Safe programme** of personal safety skills will be taught as a unit of lessons to all class groups every other year beginning January 2020.

The **Mighty Mouth Dental Hygiene Programme** is taught with the assistance of the HSE Dental Nurse to all Senior Infants every year

-The **Zippy Friends** programme is taught to designated classes every year.

This updated plan will ensure that there is an integrated and co-ordinated whole school approach to the teaching of SPHE across all class levels from Junior Infants to 2nd Classes. It also will guide teachers in planning for the teaching of SPHE and for the assessment of teaching and learning in SPHE.

##### (a) Vision:

*The SPHE curriculum in St.Fiachra's JS will support pupils to develop a framework of values, attitudes, understanding and skills to inform their decisions and actions now and in the future. Through the teaching of SPHE pupils will be assisted to develop feelings of self-worth and self-confidence and will be taught to relate to others positively. Pupils will be taught to be aware of their rights as individuals while accepting responsibility for their actions as members of the school and wider community.*

**(b) Aims:**

The children of St. Fiachra's JS will be enabled to achieve the aims of the SPHE curriculum, including:

- to promote the personal development and well-being of the child
- to foster in the child a sense of care and respect for himself/herself and others and an appreciation of the dignity of every human being
- to promote the health of the child and provide a foundation for healthy living in all its aspects
- to enable the child to make informed decisions and choices about the social, personal and health dimensions of life both now and in the future
- to develop in the child a sense of social responsibility, a commitment to active and participative citizenship and an appreciation of the democratic way of life
- to enable the child to respect human and cultural diversity and to appreciate and understand the interdependent nature of the world

**Overview of the SPHE Curriculum :**

**Strands and Strand Units:**

The Junior curriculum is organized at two x two year cycles ie.

- (i) Junior & Senior Infant Class (ii) First & Second Class.

Each two year cycle/level consists of three strands or main topic areas: **Myself, Myself and Others, Myself and the Wider World.**

Strand	Areas
Myself	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personal development of the individual child, his/her health and care and respect for oneself.</li><li>• Fostering personal responsibility for actions and behaviour</li><li>• Growth and development of the human body ( including RSE sensitive lessons)</li></ul>

<b>Myself &amp; Others:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of care and respect for other people</li> <li>• Communicating effectively with others</li> <li>• Resolving conflicts, empathy, assertiveness</li> <li>• Co-operating and working collaboratively with others</li> </ul>
<b>Myself &amp; the Wider World:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding what it means to belong to various communities that pupils live in</li> <li>• Care for the environment</li> <li>• Media awareness</li> <li>• Learning about cultures and traditions</li> <li>• Respect for the rights and contributions of cultural diversity</li> </ul>

*Each strand is further subdivided into strand units or sub topics with learning objectives for each unit.*

St. Fiachra's JS will teach aspects of all three major strands each year and strand units will be organized so that pupils will receive a comprehensive programme in SPHE over a two year cycle at their class level.

The following timetable for teaching the strands/strand units reflect this commitment across all class levels.

Strand & Strand Units (Year 1 & Year 2 )

Month	Year 1 ( Commencing Sept.2019)
Sept./Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-Identity (Myself)</li> </ul>
Nov/Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My friends &amp; Other people (Myself &amp; Others)</li> </ul>
Jan/Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety &amp; Protection ( Myself) **Stay Safe</li> </ul>
Mar/April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making Decisions (Myself)</li> </ul>
May/June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media Education (Myself &amp; the wider world)</li> </ul>

Month	Year 2
Sept./Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Myself &amp; my family (Myself &amp; Others)</li> </ul>
Nov/Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relating to others ( Myself &amp; Others)</li> </ul>
Jan/Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing &amp; Changing (Myself) **Naming body parts</li> </ul>
Mar/April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking care of my body (Myself)</li> </ul>
May/June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing citizenship (Myself &amp; the wider world)</li> </ul>

## Contexts for SPHE:

SPHE will be taught in St. Fiachra's JS in the following contexts:

- Positive School Climate and Atmosphere
- positive communication and affirmation
- acknowledgement of individual needs
- creation of a health-promoting and safe environment
- developing democratic processes
- enhancing self-esteem of all the school community
- fostering respect for diversity and cultures
- inclusive and respectful language

## Discrete time for SPHE

SPHE is allocated ½ hour per week in each class timetable.

## Integration with other subject areas and Linkage within SPHE

Teachers will implement a thematic approach to SPHE by integrating it with other subject areas such as Aistear(Infants) Language, Geography, History, Religion, Visual Arts, Physical Education, etc.

Themes/Projects such as Friendship Week (February) & Screen Awareness (November) week will also be explored.

## Approaches and Methodologies:

The approaches and methodologies used in the teaching and learning of SPHE are crucial to the effectiveness of the programme. Active learning is the principle learning and teaching approach recommended for SPHE, therefore teachers will teach SPHE using a variety of learning strategies which include:

- drama activities including circle time and think pair share etc
- co-operative games
- use of pictures, photographs and visual images
- written activities and worksheets
- use of media i.e.video, film etc.
- IWB & ICT and assessment of children's work

## Assessment:

Assessment is a central part of the learning and teaching process in SPHE.

Assessment of and Assessment for Learning provides information on the pupil's progress and on the effectiveness of the curricular programmes and the teaching methods.

The following assessment practices will be used for SPHE:

*Teacher Observation: ability of pupils to cooperate and work in groups/work independently, participation and interest of the pupil in a variety of activities, particular interests and attitudes displayed by a child, level of social and personal responsibility displayed by the pupil, the pupil's*

*awareness of the difficulty of others, his/her willingness to help, ability to verbalise on social and emotional matters.*

**Teacher-Designed Tasks and Tests:***formal tasks both written and oral to determine progress in specific areas of SPHE as identified by the teacher.*

#### **Children with Additional Needs:**

Teachers will adapt and modify activities and methodologies in SPHE to support the participation of pupils with special needs. SET teachers will supplement the SPHE programme of work of the class teachers where necessary ie social stories etc. The school liaises with trained relevant professionals/ agencies when dealing with sensitive issues that may arise for pupils such as bereavement or loss or family issues etc.

#### **Equality of Participation and Access:**

St. Fiachra's JS recognises and values diversity, and believes all pupils should have equality of opportunity and participation in all aspects of teaching and learning in SPHE.

#### **Policies and Programmes that support SPHE:**

Policies	Programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child Protection &amp; Safeguarding</li><li>• Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedures</li><li>• Relationships and Sexuality Education</li><li>• Substance Use</li><li>• Code of Behaviour</li><li>• Stay Safe Policy</li><li>• Health and Safety Policy</li><li>• Healthy Eating Policy</li><li>• Acceptable Usage Policy etc</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stay Safe Programme ( taught every other year in all classes)</li><li>• Walk Tall ( taught as part of SPHE)</li><li>• Green Flag Environmental Awareness</li><li>• Active School Flag Awareness</li><li>• Zippy's Friends (In designated classes)</li></ul>

#### **Homework:**

SPHE homework will reflect the active learning approach and will reinforce learning already taught during class.

**Stay Safe-** weekly worksheets in pupils Stay Safe booklet are sent home when the programme is being taught and parents are asked to read and discuss the lessons with their children.

### Teaching Resources:

PDST have developed a resource list, available on the SPHE page at [www.pdst.ie](http://www.pdst.ie).

SPHE Programmes and Teaching Resources	Pupil Text/Resources	Teacher	Audio / Visual	Posters Resources etc	Media & ICT
	Stay Safe Programme Booklet	RSE Manuals Walk Tall & Stay Safe Manual Dental Pack RSA Pack Making the Links - PDST	Mindfulness for Children CD Go Noodle resources	Various posters on relevant SPHE topics across allclass levels Anatomical dolls & bath	Relevant websites and Apps etc

### Outside Speakers/Educational Talks:

Outside speakers and educational talk such as; Dental Nurse will be arranged for classes as appropriate to reinforce aspects of SPHE. In all cases where an outside speaker/s is invited to address pupils the class teacher must remain in the classroom (as per Circular 22/2010) c/f Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy 2019

### Individual Teachers' Planning and Reporting

This SPHE Whole School Plan and the DES Curriculum documents will inform and guide teachers in their long and short term planning for SPHE. Each teacher records SPHE objectives and content in the CuntasMíosúil. Teacher designed assessments and observation and feedback from pupils and parents will inform progress when evaluating and reviewing teaching and learning in SPHE.

### Professional Development for Staff:

The BOM are committed to supporting the continuous professional development for all teachers and other school staff to support the effective implementation of the SPHE curriculum. Opportunities for training and upskilling will be provided as necessary to support teaching and learning for SPHE as follows:

- Child Protection Procedures updated 2017 ( & Children First 2015 )
- Training as relevant for Stay Safe, Substance Misuse /Walk Tall
- Training for teaching Relationships and Sexuality Education /R.S.E.
- Training for DLP/DDLP and BOM
- Training for teaching of other aspects of SPHE ie Wellbeing etc

Teachers are encouraged to attend SPHE related courses as relevant during term time and as summer courses and are expected to share their learning with colleagues as appropriate.

### **Parental Involvement:**

The ongoing involvement of parents is an integral part to effectively implementing SPHE as a shared responsibility for parents and teachers. This SPHE plan and the SPHE programme of lessons for all class levels are available for parents to inform them of the programme for SPHE and RSE.

As the need arises talks/presentation on other aspects of SPHE relevant to parents may be arranged ie. Digital Safety etc. Parents also are notified of SPHE initiatives etc through the school newsletter, the school website and by email communication as relevant.

### **Links with the Community**

St. Fiachra's JS liaises with the local community to support teaching and learning in SPHE. The school links with local and national agencies to support the delivery of SPHE at all class levels and regularly invites representatives of professions ie Garda, Nurse, Fireman etc to speak with the pupils.

### **Success Criteria**

The success of this plan will be evaluated through the following;

- Implementation of the objectives of the SPHE Curriculum – Teacher Planning and Assessment
- Availability and relevance of the Teaching Resources to support the teaching of SPHE
- Participation of pupils and involvement of parents in the various SPHE programmes ie Stay Safe
- Teacher Observation of Behaviour/Attitudes and Learning
- Positive School Climate and Atmosphere
- Effective Communication between all partners in the School Community.

### **Implementation - Roles and Responsibilities:**

***BOM*** has overall responsibility for the implementation of all aspects of the SPHE curriculum.

***Principal*** oversees the teaching and learning of SPHE and support staff in implementing the programme and in accessing professional development as relevant.

***Teachers:*** must teach and implement the SPHE curriculum as outlined and must adhere to current Child Protection Policies and Procedures.

***Pupils:*** should co-operate and participate in SPHE lessons and assignments as required.

***Parents*** should inform themselves of the SPHE school plan and support children's learning in SPHE.

**Timeframe** – This Whole School Plan for SPHE will be implemented from 2019/2020 school year onwards.

**Review** -This plan will be updated as necessary to comply with curricular and legislative developments.

### **Ratification and Communication**

The Board of Management of St. Fiachra's JS ratified this plan at its meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2019

Signed : Bernadette Ellis

(Chairperson of the Board of Management)

Signed: *Aine Carberry*

(Principal)

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019