



Scoil Maelruain Junior

Old Bawn Ave,

Tallaght

Dublin 24

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School Roll Number: 19462T

www.scoilmaelruainjunior.org



Draft Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) Policy

Date	February 2023
Initial Draft	February 2023
Parent Consultation	
Ratified by the Board of Management	

This is a working continuous document

School: Scoil Maelruain Junior
Old Bawn Avenue
Tallaght
Dublin 24

Date: February 2023

Principal: Claire Durr

Our School Philosophy

Scoil Maelruain Junior is a Roman Catholic School which respects and accommodates pupils from other denominations and none. It recognises the uniqueness of each child. It seeks to develop children spiritually and morally and to foster in each child a Christian ethical sense that will enable him/her to acquire values on which to base choices and form attitudes.

It endeavours to equip children with the knowledge and skills that will serve them, not only in their lives as children, but later as adults.

Parents' Role

It is recognised that parents are the prime providers of Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE). as the home is the natural environment in which this education takes place. The SPHE programme provides learning opportunities in the context of a positive school climate, through time-tabled lessons, through discrete time and through an integrated approach across a range of subject areas.

School Obligations

Scoil Maelruain Junior will implement the SPHE curriculum in accordance with the curriculum and Teacher Guidelines. The school will implement the 'Stay Safe Programme' in accordance with Circular 0065/2011 and in line with Children's First – National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children.

The school covers the SPHE programme by way of lessons drawn from Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE), Stay Safe, Walk Tall, Fun Friends, Incredible Years, , Zippy's Friends, Active Flag Programme and Grow In Love.

Scoil Maelruain Junior will promote a positive attitude towards the physical and mental health among pupils, staff and the whole school community.

The Aims of Social, Personal and Health Education Programme

The aims of the Social, Personal and Health Education programme are:

- 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.
- To teach wellbeing within the SPHE curriculum and with the use of various wellbeing

programmes to establish wellbeing as an ethos within the school.

Broad Objectives

When due account is taken of intrinsic abilities and varying circumstances, the SPHE curriculum should enable a child to:

- Be self-confident and have a positive sense of self-esteem.
- Develop a sense of personal responsibility and come to understand his/her sexuality and the processes of growth, development and reproduction.
- Develop and enhance the social skills of communication, cooperation and conflict resolution.
- Create and maintain supportive relationships both now and in the future.
- Develop an understanding of healthy living, an ability to implement healthy behaviour and a willingness to participate in activities that promote and sustain good health.
- Develop a sense of safety and an ability to protect himself/herself from danger and abuse.
- Make decisions, solve problems and take appropriate actions in various personal, social and health contexts.
- Become aware of, and discerning about, the various influences on choices and decisions.
- Begin to identify, review and evaluate the values and attitudes that are held by individuals and society and to recognise that these affect thoughts and actions.
- Respect the environment and develop a sense of responsibility for its long-term care and sustainability.
- Develop some of the skills and abilities necessary for participating fully in groups and in society.
- Become aware of some of the individual and community rights and responsibilities that come from living in a democracy.
- Begin to understand the concepts of personal, local, national, European and global identity.
- Appreciate and respect the diversity that exists in society and the positive contributions of various cultural, religious and social groups.
- Promote the values of a just and caring society in an age-appropriate manner and understand the importance of seeking truth and peace.

Guidelines for the Management and Organisation of Social, Personal and Health Education in Our School

1. Parents' Rights and Responsibilities Including the Withdrawal of Pupils:

We respect the rights of parents and appreciate they may wish to withdraw their child from a lesson which is of a sensitive nature.

In this event, parents should discuss their concerns with the class teacher and/or

school principal, and submit in writing that they wish their child to be withdrawn from a lesson/s and this will be recorded on Aladdin.

2. Lesson plans for each school year will be available to any parent who wishes to read them.

Stay Safe:

- Stay Safe is taught annually to Senior Infants and 2nd Class. Parents are informed prior to the commencement of the programme that it will be taught and the topics that will be covered.
- Teachers will send worksheets/activities home weekly to ensure home-school links.
- Teachers will inform the principal when they have completed the programme. This will be recorded and noted at the BoM meeting and minuted in the minutes.

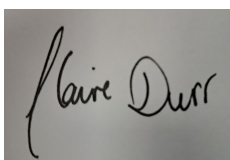
School Organisation of Social, Personal and Health Education:

The principal, in consultation with the staff, will make provision for the delivery of the S.P.H.E. curriculum and its programmes - Walk Tall, Relationships and Sexuality Education and Stay Safe. Appropriate lessons and resources will be assessed and where necessary amended by the school staff.

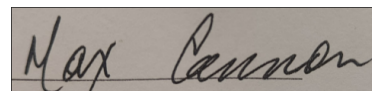
Ratification by Board of Management and Communication to School Community:

This policy is a draft policy and will be consulted on by staff and parents in due course. After consultation the policy will be presented to the Board of Management for ratification. While in Draft it will be published in its this form until it has been ratified.

This policy was ratified on: Yet to be ratified/Draft working document



Claire Durr
Principal



Max Cannon
Chairperson

The policy will be available on the school website and through the office.