

Whole School Plan for

SPHE

Social, Personal and Health Education Whole School Plan

■ Introductory Statement and Rationale

(a) Introductory Statement

The staff of Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS. formulated this school plan for SPHE, in consultation with our Board of Management and our parents, as we believe that SPHE is a shared responsibility and their contributions and involvement will be essential to the effective implementation of the SPHE programme in the school. It was initially drafted during an in-school planning day in 2009/2010 and following staff training it was reviewed and updated in 2018/2019 in line with recommended guidelines from PDST.

(b) Rationale

SPHE has been taught in Scoil Naomh Mhuire N.S. for many years through various programmes and initiatives such as Stay Safe, Walk Tall, Relationships and Sexuality Education and through our involvement in the Health Eating Initiative and Active Schools Week. It has also been taught through integration with other subject areas such as Physical Education, Religion, Geography, etc. However, we wish to formalise our teaching of SPHE and plan for it on a whole school basis.

■ Vision and Aims

(a) Vision:

Scoil Naomh Mhuire is a co-educational, Roman Catholic, primary school, which aims to promote the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual including a living relationship with God and with other people.

We strive to utilise the full school community resources to create a well ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural needs of our pupils are identified and developed. (*Mission Statement*)

This SPHE Plan is child centered to: foster and enable each pupil develop a positive sense of self-esteem, enhance their social and communication skills and acquire necessary knowledge and ability to lead healthy and well balanced lives as responsible citizens.

(b) Aims:

The children of Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS should be enabled to achieve the aims outlined in the SPHE curriculum, which include:

- 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

■ Content of Plan

Curriculum:

Strands and Strand Units:

The curriculum is delineated at four levels—infant classes, first and second classes, third and fourth classes, and fifth and sixth classes—and is divided into three strands: *Myself*, *Myself and Others*, and *Myself and the wider world*. Each of these strands is further subdivided into a number of strand units or topic areas that contain particular objectives.

The class group structure and teacher allocation in Scoil Naomh Mhuire reflect the curricular levels with classes divided into two-year groups - infant classes, first and second classes, third and fourth classes, and fifth and sixth classes.

Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS will teach aspects of all three major strand units each year and strand units will be chosen in such a way that the child will receive a comprehensive programme in SPHE over a two-year period. Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS have created this timetable to reflect this approach:

Strand	Strand Units (Year 1)	Strand Units (Year 2)
Myself	<i>Self-identity (Sept.–Oct.)</i>	<i>Safety and Protection (Jan-Mar)</i> <i>Stay Safe</i>
	<i>Taking care of my body (Jan-Feb)</i>	
	<i>Growing and Changing (Mar-April)</i>	<i>Making Decisions (March-April)</i> <i>*This strand unit is for third to sixth only. Infants to second complete the Safety Issues section of Safety and Protection</i>
Myself and others	<i>Myself and My Family (Nov.-Dec.)</i>	<i>My friends and other people (May-June)</i>
		<i>Relating to others (Sept-Oct.)</i>
Myself and the wider world	<i>Developing Citizenship (May-June)</i>	<i>Media Education (Nov-Dec.)</i>

Positive School Climate and Atmosphere

Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS has created a positive atmosphere by:

- building effective communication
- catering for individual needs
- creating a health-promoting physical environment
- developing democratic processes
- enhancing self-esteem
- fostering respect for diversity
- fostering inclusive and respectful language
- developing appropriate communication
- developing a school approach to assessment

Discrete time for SPHE

SPHE is allocated ½ hour per week on each teacher's timetable in Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS. However teachers may allocate 1 hour per fortnight to allow for more indepth exploration of a strand unit.

Integration with other subject areas and Linkage within SPHE

Teachers will endeavour to adopt an thematic approach to SPHE by integrating it with other subject areas such as Language, SESE, Religion, Visual Arts, Physical Education, etc. Themes/Projects such as Healthy Eating Week, Friendship Week, Anti-Bullying Week, Friendship Week, Active Schools Week, Lenten Campaign, etc. will also be explored.

Approaches and Methodologies:

Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS believe that the approaches and methodologies used in SPHE are crucial to the effectiveness of the programme. Active learning is the principal learning and teaching approach recommended for SPHE, therefore we will endeavour to teach SPHE using a variety of strategies which include:

- drama activities
- co-operative games
- use of pictures
- photographs and visual images
- written activities
- use of media
- information technologies and looking at children's work

Assessment:

Assessment is a central part of the everyday learning and teaching process in SPHE. It can provide valuable information on the child's progress and on the effectiveness and suitability of the programme and the teaching methods being used.

Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS uses the following recommended informal tools for assessment in SPHE:

- *Teacher observation*
- *Teacher-designed tasks and tests*
- *Portfolios and projects*

Each child will keep an SPHE Scrapbook/ folder / copybook and this will be used to assess a child's progress in SPHE.

Children with Different Needs:

Teachers will endeavour to adapt and modify activities and methodologies in SPHE to encourage participation by children with special needs. The learning support and resource teachers will supplement the work of the class teachers where necessary. Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS will liaise with trained professionals/appropriate agencies when dealing with sensitive issues such as bereavement or loss to ensure that the children involved are fully supported.

Equality of Participation and Access:

Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS recognises and values diversity, and believes all children are entitled to access the services, facilities, or amenities that are available in the school environment. Ours is a mixed-sex school and we endeavour to challenge traditional stereotypes and ensure that equal opportunities are given to boys and girls to participate in discussion, debate, presentation, etc. Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS is under Catholic school management, and we endeavour to provide for all children of differing needs and cultures.

Organisation:**1 Policies and Programmes that support SPHE:**

Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection Statement • Anti-Bullying • Relationships and Sexuality Education • Stay Safe • Code of Behaviour • Enrolment and Admissions • Health and Safety • Healthy Eating • Internet Acceptable Usage
Programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active School Flag • Food Dudes / Incredible Edibles

2 Homework:

SPHE homework, if prescribed in SPHE, will reflect the active learning approach and will reinforce information already taught during class.

3 Resources:

(PDST have developed a resource list, which is available on the SPHE page at www.pdst.ie. New resources are added to this from time to time.)

Programmes and Other Materials:

Books for Pupil	Books for Teacher	Audio / Visual	Posters	Media & ICT
	RSE Manuals Walk Tall Stay Safe Making the Links	Busy Bodies Food Dudes	Various posters throughout the school	Various online resources are recommended by DES, PDST and NEPS

Guest Speakers:

When a guest speaker addresses the children in SPHE, the class teacher will remain in the classroom (as per Circular 22/2010) and make the speaker aware of this school plan and attached policies.

4 *Individual Teachers' Planning and Reporting:*

This plan in SPHE and the curriculum documents will inform and guide teachers in their long and short term planning in SPHE. Each teacher will keep a Cuntas Míosúil and this will inform our progress and needs when evaluating and reviewing our progress in SPHE.

5 *Staff Development:*

Training opportunities will include the following areas and this training will support an effective implementation of the SPHE programme:

- *Training in Child Protection procedures*
- *training in the Child Abuse Prevention Programme/ Stay Safe*
- *training in the Substance Misuse programme /Walk Tall*
- *training in the Relationships and Sexuality Education programme /R.S.E.*
- *PDST Advisor support and modelling of lessons*
- *other*

Teachers are encouraged to attend SPHE related courses and will share information/skills acquired at these courses with other members of staff during staff meetings.

6 *Parental Involvement:*

Parental involvement is considered an integral part to effectively implementing SPHE as Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS believe that SPHE is a shared responsibility. This plan and the curriculum documents are available for parents to inform them of the programme for SPHE.

7 *Community Links:*

Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS believe that the local community has a very important role to play in supporting the programme in SPHE and endeavour to liaise with the members such as the Dental Hygienist, Health Nurse, Firefighters, Vet, New Parent, etc.

■ **Success Criteria**

The success of this plan will be evaluated through teacher's planning and preparation, and if the procedures outlined in this plan have been consistently followed. We will also judge its success if the children have been enabled to achieve the aims outlined in this plan.

■ **Implementation**

(a) Roles and Responsibilities:

Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS believes that the school community must be involved to successfully implement SPHE. Therefore the teaching staff will implement this plan with the support of the Board of Management, Parents and the Local Community.

(b) Timeframe:

The plan will be implemented by (state date): February 1st, 2019

■ Review

(a) Roles and Responsibilities:

It will be necessary to review this plan on a regular basis to ensure optimum implementation of the SPHE curriculum in the school. The Principal and Deputy Principal are responsible for co-ordinating this review.

Those involved in the review will include: teachers, pupils, parents and BOM

(b) Timeframe:

This plan will be reviewed in 2021

■ Ratification and Communication

The Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Mhuire NS ratified this plan on (state date).

Signed: Mary McDowell
Principal

Date: March 11th, 2019

Signed: Maeve Caldwell

Date: March 11th, 2019

Date of next review: October 2021

This plan is available to view on our school website.