

## **Scoil Mhuire, Effin.**

### **Social, Personal and Health Education Social, Personal and Health Education Whole School Plan.**

**Introductory Statement:** SPHE have been taught in Scoil Mhuire for many years through various programmes and initiatives such as Stay Safe, Walk Tall and the Relationships and Sexuality Education Programme. This SPHE Policy was drafted by the school staff and brought to the attention of the Board of Management and Parents. The most recent review of this policy was carried out in December 2022.

**Vision and Aims Mission Statement:** Scoil Mhuire aims to provide an environment that will allow each child to develop to his/her full educational potential while fostering also, their optimum personal growth.

We will be guided by the Catholic ethos in our endeavours to achieve these aims. We hope to provide a safe and stimulating learning environment for all our pupils where their natural curiosity, self-expression, mutual respect and individuality will be allowed to flourish.

It is hoped that every child who leaves this school will be a well-rounded individual, capable of responsible choices and decisions, possessed of self-confidence and self-discipline and that they will look back on their primary school years as enjoyable, educational and as providing a solid base for their future development.

Finally, our aim is that Scoil Mhuire, Effin, will reflect the larger Parish Community with pupils, teachers and parents striving to enhance the lives of all its members.

The students of Scoil Mhuire 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:

#### 1 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.

Scoil Mhuire 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 Mhuire has devised the following approach to whole school teaching of SPHE:

- Year 1: Five Strand Units.
- Year 2: Five Strand Units.
- Each year at least one strand unit is taught from each of the three strands.
- Each strand unit is allocated two months teaching time.
- Timing of these two month blocks are mapped across each school year.
- All teachers are covering the same strand units at the same time.

Month	Year One	Year Two
Sept/Oct	Self-identity (Myself)	Myself & my Family (Myself & Others)
Nov/Dec	My friends & other people (Myself & Others)	Relating to others (Myself & Others)
Jan/Feb	Safety & Protection (Myself)	Growing & Changing (Myself)
Mar/Apr	Making Decisions* (Myself)	Taking care of my body (Myself)

May/June	Media Education (Myself and the Wider World)	Developing Citizenship (Myself & the Wider World)
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\* Making decisions is a strand Unit for 3rd to 6th only. Junior Infants to Second classes can complete the Safety Issues section from *Safety and Protection* strand unit at this time.

## **2 Contexts for SPHE:**

SPHE will be taught in Scoil Mhuire through a combination of the following contexts:

### **Positive School Climate and Atmosphere.**

Scoil Mhuire 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.**

In accordance with Department of Education guidelines, SPHE is allocated  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour per week on each teacher's timetable in Scoil Mhuire. However teachers may allocate 1 hour per fortnight to allow for more indepth exploration of a strand unit when the need arises (e.g. Stay Safe/ RSE programmes).

### **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, Geography, History, Religion, Visual Arts, Physical Education, etc.

Themes/Projects such as Healthy Eating Week, Friendship Week, Agri-Awareness, Healthy Heart Week, Active School Week, Team-Limerick Clean Up etc. will also be explored.

### **3 Approaches and Methodologies:**

We 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:

- Guided discovery
- Talk and discussion
- Problem solving
- Collaborative learning
- Direct teaching
- drama activities
- co-operative games
- use of pictures, photographs and visual images
- written activities
- use of media and ICT

### **4 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 Mhuire uses the following recommended informal tools for assessment in SPHE:

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

### **5 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 Special Education Team will supplement the work of the class teachers where necessary. Scoil Mhuire 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

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

Scoil Mhuire 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 co-ed 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. We also endeavour to provide appropriate opportunities for children with special needs.

Scoil Mhuire reflects and promotes the ethos and characteristic spirit of the Catholic Church. A Roman Catholic school (which is established in connection with the Minister) aims at promoting 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.

Scoil Mhuire models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Catholic school provides religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith.

## **Organisation:**

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

- Child Safeguarding & Risk Assessment Statement
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy
- Substance Use Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- Enrolment Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Healthy Eating Policy
- Internet Acceptable User Policy
- Active School Flag
- Health Promoting Schools
- Green Flag Programme

## **8 Homework:**

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

## **9 Resources:**

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

### *9.1 Programmes and Other Materials:*

<b>Books for Teachers</b>	<b>Audio/Video</b>	<b>Posters</b>	<b>Media &amp; ICT</b>
RSE Manuals Walk Tall Stay Safe Making the Links	Busy Bodies	Great Wall of Wellness Posters displayed throughout the school	PDST Website Webwise

### *9.2 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.

## **10 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 Míósúil* and this will inform our progress and needs when evaluating and reviewing our progress in SPHE.

## **11 Staff Development:**

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

- Child Protection Programme/ Stay Safe
- Substance Misuse programme /Walk Tall
- Relationships and Sexuality Education programme /R.S.E.
- Tusla's "Children First Mandated Person" eLearning Module
- NEPS Critical Incident Policy

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.

### **12 Parental Involvement:**

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

### **13 Community Links:**

Scoil Mhuire believes 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, Fireperson, Vet, New Parents, etc.

### **Success Criteria.**

The success of this plan will be evaluated through teachers' 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.**

#### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

Scoil Mhuire 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.

#### **Review:**

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 staff will be responsible for managing this review. Those involved in the review will include teachers, pupils, Board of Management and wider school community.

**Ratification and Communication:**

The latest review of this plan was carried out in December 2022 and it was ratified at the Board of Management meeting held on 13/12/2022.

This policy is available to view at the school by the parents on request.

Signed:\_\_\_\_\_ Chairperson.