**Policy on the Stay Safe Programme**

Loreto Junior Primary 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. The principal aim of the programme is to prevent both physical and sexual abuse of children.

Under Child Protection Guidelines all schools are obliged to teach the Stay Safe programme. The Stay Safe Programme has been updated and from the 2018-2019 school year onwards, the revised Stay Safe Programme will be implemented in its totality in each class in the school.

The children in every class will be taught the Stay Safe programme during the course of the school year. The aim of this programme is to teach children personal safety skills so that they can look after themselves in situations that could be upsetting or dangerous. It deals initially with common situations which most children will experience at some stage or other – e.g. getting lost.

The programme also teaches children the safety skills necessary to protect themselves from physical or sexual abuse. Children will be taught to tell a trusted adult about any problems that they may have.

The Stay Safe programme is part of the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum and all primary schools must teach it. Co-operation between parents and teachers is essential to the success of this programme.

Children from Junior Infants to Second Class participate in formal lessons on the Stay Safe Programme.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to become involved by discussing each lesson with their child and using the completed worksheet based on the lessons in the programme which will be sent home or uploaded to class Dojo.

Parents are informed in advance of commencement of teaching the Stay Safe Programme. They are directed to [www.pdst.ie/staysafe](http://www.pdst.ie/staysafe) to see the content of the lessons and for any further information they might need.

In the event that a parent informs the school that they wish to withdraw their child from the Stay Safe Programme, a written record of their reasons for doing is required from the parent. This is retained on the child’s school file.

Staff will be facilitated to attend CPD training on the revised Stay Safe programme.

This plan was ratified by the Board of Management at a meeting on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of Board of ManagementPrincipal/Secretary to the Board of Management

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­­­\_