

# SCOIL MHUIRE N.S.

Gortanumera, Ballyshrule, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway H53 PW70

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Charity No. 20120870



## SOCIAL, PERSONAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION WHOLE SCHOOL PLAN (SPHE)

### Introductory Statement and Rationale

#### (a) Introductory Statement

The staff of Scoil Mhuire National School formulated this school plan for SPHE, in consultation with our Board of Management. It was drafted and brought to the attention of the Board of Management and Parents.

#### (b) Rationale

Aspects of SPHE have been taught in Scoil Mhuire N.S. for many years through various programmes and initiatives such as Stay Safe, Walk Tall. 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:

Staff in Scoil Mhuire N.S. agrees that the education of the child shall be directed to:-

- (1) The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential.
- (2) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin.

#### (b) Aims:

The children Scoil Mhuire N.S. 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: 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 N.S. 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 N.S. has created this timetable to reflect this approach:

Strand	Strand Units (Year 1)	Strand Units (Year 2)
<b>Myself</b>	<i>Self-identity (Sept.–Oct.)</i>	<i>Safety and Protection (Jan-Feb)-Stay Safe</i>
	<i>Taking care of my body(Jan-Feb)</i>	<i>Making Decisions (March-April)</i>
	<i>Growing and Changing (Mar-April)</i>	
<b>Myself and others</b>	<i>Myself and My Family (Nov.-Dec.)</i>	<i>Relating to others (Sept-Oct.)</i>
		<i>My friends and other people (Nov-Dec)</i>
<b>Myself and the wider world</b>	<i>Developing Citizenship (May-June)</i>	<i>Media Education (May-June)</i>

## **2. Contexts for SPHE:**

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

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

Scoil Mhuire N.S. 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

### **b. Discrete time for SPHE**

SPHE is allocated ½ hour per week on each teacher's timetable in Scoil Mhuire N.S. However teachers may allocate 1 hour per fortnight to allow for more in-depth exploration of a strand unit from time to time and to allow for project work. Time may be blocked.

- c. Integration with other subject areas and Linkage within 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, Lenten Campaign, etc. will also be explored.

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

Scoil Mhuire NS believes 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

#### **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 NS 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 learning support and resource teachers will supplement the work of the class teachers where necessary. Scoil 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.

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

Scoil 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-sexed only* 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 Mhuire NS is under Roman Catholic/Church of Ireland/Multi-Denominational/Non-Denominational school management, and we endeavour to provide for Members of Travelling community, Children with disabilities, Families with literacy difficulties, Children who are learning English as a second language.

#### **7. Organisation:**

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

- Code of Behaviour
- Enrolment Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Substance Use Policy
  - See Substance Use Policy
- Relationships and Sexuality Education:

- See Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy
- Stay Safe Programme:
  - See Child Protection Policy
- Child Protection:
  - See Child Protection Policy
- Anti-Bullying
- Healthy Eating
- Other Policies

**8. Homework:**

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

**9. Resources:**

**9.1 Programmes and Other Materials:**

Books for Pupil	Books for Teacher	Audio Tapes	Posters	Media & ICT
Alive O	Walk Tall Programme RSE	Busy Bees	Self-control Best foot forward Good Character Healthy Eating	Various materials available. DVD Library

**9.2 Guest Speakers:**

When a guest speaker addresses the children in SPHE, the class teacher will remain in the classroom 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:**

The staff will attend training in the following areas when the opportunity arises.

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 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, and they are welcomed as committee members on the Relationships and Sexuality Education Policy and Substance Use Policy. They are also welcomed as committee members of the Health Promoting Schools initiative.

**13. Community Links:**

Scoil 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, Fireman, Vet, New Parent and Local Guard.

**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 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 in

## **Review**

### **(a) Roles and Responsibilities:**

It will be necessary to review this plan every 2-3 years to ensure optimum

implementation of the SPHE curriculum in the school. The whole staff is responsible for co-ordinating this review.

Those involved in the review will include:

Teachers

Pupils

Parents

Plan co-ordinator

BoM/DES/Others

### **(b) Timeframe:**

This plan will be reviewed on

## **Ratification and Communication**

The BoM of the Scoil Mhuire N.S. ratify this plan on \_\_\_\_\_

This plan is available to view at the school by the parents.