



Keeping Safe

The Keeping Safe programme

Keeping Safe is a whole school education programme, developed in partnership with the Department of Education Northern Ireland which aims to teach every primary school child (4-11 year olds) age appropriate messages to keep them safe from bullying, neglect, physical, emotional, sexual, and domestic abuse.

The programme has 3 key components:

A suite of teaching and learning resources to assist school staff to teach and reinforce sensitive messages through the formal and informal curriculum. The classroom based materials have been developed across three themes; healthy relationships, my body and being safe. They include a wide range of materials including 63 lesson plans incorporating ten animations, eight animated stories and 24 interactive activities. The resources have been specifically designed for each age group and lessons build on and extend prior learning. In practice 9 lessons (3 per term) will be delivered to each year group. Homework tasks have also been developed so that parents are aware of what their children are being taught and can help reinforce these messages. Posters, wet break activities and 12 whole school/year or class assemblies have been developed to reinforce the messages being taught in class.

Training and ongoing support is available for all school staff; school leaders, teaching and non-teaching staff to assist them to teach the most sensitive keeping safe messages and embed the programme in all aspects of school life.

Parental Involvement is built into the programme to ensure parents have a good understanding of the programme and have the knowledge, skills and confidence to reinforce messages that their children are receiving at school. Parents will be invited to an information session to hear more about the programme and get an understanding of how they can help. Two workshops for parents based on NSPCC PANTS and the Share Aware materials have been developed and will be facilitated by NSPCC in schools. These have also been filmed and developed into video content for parents.

Evidence of effectiveness

The programme has been thoroughly evaluated to assess if it is giving children the knowledge, understanding and skills to keep safe, helping teachers to become comfortable in teaching keeping safe messages and giving parents confidence to communicate with their child about keeping safe messages. The results of this evaluation will be available in 2019.