

**St Eunan's National School  
Laghey**

**SPHE**

# SPHE

## ■ Title

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

## ■ Introductory Statement and Rationale

### (a) Introductory Statement

The staff of St. Eunan's N.S. 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 drafted, with the assistance of a local cuiditheoir from the Primary Professional Development Service, and brought to the attention of the Board of Management.

### (b) Rationale

Aspects of SPHE have been taught in St. Eunan's N.S. for many years through various programmes and initiatives such as Walk Tall and through our involvement in the Health Promoting Schools Initiative. 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:

SPHE in St. Eunan's N.S. should create an opportunity for all children to understand and develop the various skills associated with the SPHE curriculum. This should help the children to develop positive attitudes and values during their time in the school and for later life.

### (b) Aims:

The children of St. Eunan's 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:

#### 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.

St. Eunan's 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.

St. Eunan's NS have created this timetable to reflect this approach:

**Strands**   **Strand Units (Year 1)**   **Strand Units (Year 2)**

#### **Myself**

*Self-identity*

*Taking care of my body*

*Growing and Changing*

*Safety and Protection*

*Making decisions*

#### **Myself and others**

*Myself and My Family*

*Relating to others*

*My friends and other people*

#### **Myself and the wider world**

*Developing Citizenship*

*Media Education*

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

SPHE will be taught in St. Eunan's NS through a combination of the following three contexts:

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

St. Eunan's NS has created a positive atmosphere by:

— building effective communication

— catering for individual needs

— creating a health-promoting physical environment

## **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:

St. Eunan's 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.

## ■ **Ratification and Communication**

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

## **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.

Those involved in the review may include:

Teachers

Pupils

Parents

Post holders/plan co-ordinator

BoM/DES/Others