

School Name
Killahan NS
School Address
Killahan
Abbeydorney
Whole School Plan for
SPHE

SPHE

Social, Personal and Health Education Whole School Plan

(a) Introductory Statement

The staff of Killahan 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 during Croke Park hours and ratified by the Board of Management and Parents.

(b) Rationale

Aspects of SPHE have been taught in Killahan N.S. for many years through various programmes and initiatives such as Stay Safe and through our involvement in the Health Promoting Schools Initiative. Relationships and Sexuality Education is administered by the relevant experts on a bi-annual basis. It has also been taught through integration with other subject areas such as Physical Education, Religion, Geography, etc.

Vision and Aims

(a) Vision:

SPHE provides particular opportunities to foster the personal development, health and well being of the child and to help him/her to create and maintain supportive relationships and become an active and responsible citizen in society.

(b) Aims:

The children of Killahan 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 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 has 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 the strands is further subdivided into a number of strand units.

Killahan National School 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.

The following is the timetable to reflect this approach:

Strand	Strand Units (Year 1) Odd Years	Strand Units (Year 2) Even Years
Myself	Self-Identity (Sept - Oct)	
	Taking care of my body (Jan - Feb)	
	Growing and Changing (Mar - April)	
		Safety and Protection (Jan - Feb) Stay Safe
		Making decisions (Mar - Apr) This strand will be covered from third to sixth only. Infants to second complete the Safety Issues of Safety and Protection
Myself and Others	Myself and my Family (Nov - Dec)	
		My Friends and Other People (Jan - Feb)
		Relating to Others (Sept - Oct)
Myself and the Wider World		Media Education (Nov - Dec)
	Developing Citizenship (May - June)	

2. Contexts for SPHE

SPHE will be taught in Killahan National School through a combination of the following three contexts:

1. Positive School Climate and Atmosphere

Killahan 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

2. Discrete Time for SPHE

SPHE is allocated half an hour per week in each teacher's timetable in Killahan N.S. However, teachers may allocate more time if necessary in order to facilitate an indepth exploration of the topic.

3. Integration with Other Subject Areas and Linkage within SPHE

Teachers will endeavour to adopt a thematic approach to SPHE by integrating it with other all other subject areas.

3. Approaches and Methodologies

Killahan NS believes that the approaches and methodologies used in SPHE are crucial to the effectiveness of the programme. Active Learning is the principle learning and teaching approach recommended for SPHE. therefore SPHE will be taught using a variety of strategies including:

- Drama activities
- cooperative games
- use of pictures
- photographs and visual images
- written activities
- use of media
- IT
- childrens work
- talk and discussion

4. Assesment

Assessment is the centre part of everyday learning and teaching process in SPHE. it can provide valuable information on the childs progress and on the effectiveness and suitability of the programme and the teaching methods being used. Killahan NS uses the following recommended informal tools for assessment

in SPHE.

- Teacher Observation
- Teacher Designed Tasks

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 class teachers where necessary. Killahan 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

Killahan 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 sex school and we challenge traditional stereotypes and ensure that equal opportunities are given to boys and girls to participate in discussion, debate, presentation etc. Killahan NS is under Roman Catholic School management and we provide for members of diverse social groups.

Organisation

7. Policies and Programmes that support SPHE

7.1 Policies/ Programmes

- Code of Behaviour
- Enrolment Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- anti Bullying Policy
- healthy eating policy
- other policies....

7.2 Substance use Policy

See substance use policy

7.3 Relationships and sexuality education

See relationships and sexuality policy.

7.4 Child Protection

See Child Protection Policy

8.0 Homework

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

9.0 Resources

All class teachers will use the Stay Safe manual.

9.1 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.

10.0 Individual teachers planning and reporting

This plan will inform and guide teachers in their planning. Each teacher will keep a short term plan/ Cuntas Míosúil and this will inform our progress and needs when evaluating progress.

11.0 Staff Development

Staff will attend training as appropriate.

12.0 Parental Involvement

This plan and the Curriculum documents that are there are available for parents, to inform them of the SPHE programme.

13.0 Community Links

Killahan National School believes that the local community has a very important role to play in supporting the SPHE programme. We endeavour to liaise with the following: Health nurse, Garda, Vet and others.

14.0 Implementation

Teaching staff will implement this plan with the support of the Board of Management, Parents and the local community.

15.0 Review

It will be necessary to review this plan on a regular basis. The Principal is responsible for coordinating this review. The plan will be reviewed in early 2017..

16.0

The Board of Management has ratified this plan and it is available for parents to view at the school.

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.

Coldwood 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.

Coldwood NS have created Strand Units (Year 1) Odd Years Strand Units (Year 2) Even Years
this timetable to reflect

this approach: Strands

Myself

Self-identity (Sept.–Oct.)

Taking care of my body(Jan.-Feb.)

Growing and Changing (March-April)

Safety and Protection (Jan-Feb)- Stay Safe

Making Decisions (March-April)

** This strand will be covered from Third to Sixth only. Infants to second complete the Safety Issues section of Safety and Protection*

Myself and others

Myself and My Family (Nov.-Dec.)

My friends and other people (Jan.-Feb.)

Relating to others (Sept.-Oct.)

Myself and the wider world

Media Education (Nov.-Dec.)

Developing Citizenship (May-June)