



MONEENROE NATIONAL SCHOOL
Roll No: 16204F



SPHE – Social, Personal & Health Education Plan

September 2023

Introductory Statement:

The staff of Moneenroe N.S formulated this school plan for SPHE in consultation with our Board of Management and parents, as we believe that SPHE is a shared responsibility and their contribution and involvement will be essential to the effective implementation of the SPHE programme in the school

Rationale:

Aspects of SPHE have been taught in Moneenroe N.S for many years through various programmes and initiatives such as Stay Safe, Walk Tall, Relationships and Sexuality Education and through 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

Vision:

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

Aims:

The children of Moneenroe 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 – 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.

Moneenroe National School will teach aspects of all three major strand units each year and strand units will be chose in such a way that the child will receive a comprehensive programme in SPHE over a two-year period.

Moneenroe N.S have created this timetable to reflect this approach:

Strands	Strand Units (Year 1)	Strand Units (Year 2) Even Years
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 3 rd to 6 th only. Infants to 2 nd complete the Safety issues section of the 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 Moneenroe N.S through a combination of the following three contexts:

- Moneenroe 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

Discrete time for SPHE

- SPHE is allocated a half hour per week on each teacher's timetable in Moneenroe N.S. However, teachers may allocate 1 hour per fortnight to allow for more in-depth exploration of a strand unit.
- Integration with other subject areas and linkage within SPHE. Teachers will endeavour to adopt a thematic approach to 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:

Moneenroe N.S 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
- Talk and discussion –Circle Time

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 the effectiveness and suitability of the programme and the teaching methods being used.

Moneenroe N.S uses the following recommended informal tools for assessment in SPHE:

- Teacher observation
- Teacher-designed tasks and tests

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. Moneenroe N.S 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:

Moneenroe N.S 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 endeavour to challenge traditional stereotypes and ensure that equal opportunities are given to boys and girls to participate in discussion, debate, presentation, etc. Moneenroe N.S is under Roman Catholic school management, and we endeavour to provide for everyone in our school community.

Organisation:

7. Policies and Programmes that support SPHE:

7.1 Policies / Programmes:

- Code of Behaviour
- Enrolment Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Healthy Eating Policy
- Other Policies

7.2 Child Protection:

See Child Protection | Policy

8. Homework:

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

9. Resources:

Making the Links will be used as a guide for all class teachers for the teaching of SPHE. All class teachers will have Say Safe, Walk Tall and RSE Manuals. There are various other SPHE resources throughout the school that the teachers have access to and may use to support them in their teaching of SPHE.

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. 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 Cúntas Míosiúl and this will inform our progress and needs when evaluating and reviewing our progress in SPHE.

11. Staff Development:

The staff have attended training in the following areas and this training will support an effective implementation of the SPHE programme:

- In-service seminars by the Primary Curriculum Support Programme.
- Training in the Child Abuse Prevention | Programme/Stay Safe
- Training in the Substance Misuse programme/Walk Tall
- Training in the Relationships and Sexuality Education programme / RSE
- Training in Circle work
- Other

Teachers are encouraged to attend SPHE related courses and will share information / skills acquire at these courses with other members of staff during staff meetings.

12. Parental Involvement:

Parent involvement is considered an integral part to effectively implementing DSPHE as Moneenroe N.S 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.

13. Community Links:

Moneenroe N.S 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, etc.

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

Roles and Responsibilities:

Moneenroe N.S 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.

Timeframe:

The plan will be implemented from January 2017

Review

Roles and Responsibilities:

- It will be necessary to review this plan on a regular basis to ensure
- Optimum implementation of the SFPHE curriculum in the school. Ms. Dunphy, Deputy Principal is responsible for co-ordinating this review.
- Those involved in the review will include:

*Teachers, Pupils, Parents, Post holders – Plan co-ordinator
Board of Management /Department of Education Skills and Others.*

Ratification and Communication

This Plan was adopted at the Board of Management Meeting on September 13th 2022.

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

Signed: 

Thomas Lanigan

Chairperson

Dated: 26th September, 2023