



Scoil Bhríde,  
Mionloch,  
Gaillimh.  
Guthán: 091-762323  
Uimhir Rolla: 17759J  
Ríomhphost: menlons.ias@eircom.net

## **Scoil Bhríde's Policy on Social, Personal and Health Education**

### **■ Introductory Statement and Rationale**

#### **(a) Introductory Statement**

The staff of Scoil Bhríde 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 an in-school planning day, with the assistance of a cuiditheoir from the Primary Curriculum Support Program, and brought to the attention of the Board of Management and Parents.

#### **(b) Rationale**

Aspects of SPHE have been taught in Scoil Bhríde for many years through various programmes and initiatives such as Stay Safe, Walk Tall and Relationships and Sexuality Education. It has also been taught through integration with other subject areas such as Physical Education, Religion, Drama, Geography, etc. However, we wish to formalise our teaching of SPHE and plan for it on a whole school basis.

### **Our School Vision:**

Social, Personal and Health Education will be taught in Scoil Bhríde, Mionloch to foster self respect, identity, respect for others and self confidence in each child. Our aim is to enable each child to live and learn harmoniously in school, at home and in the wider world.

**The aims of Social, Personal and Health Education are:**

- 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 (nutrition, physical, hygiene, emotional well-being)
- 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
- To promote consciousness of the local area and the children's place with in the local community

**Subject Matter:**

There are three strands in the Social, Personal and Health Education Curriculum:

1. Myself
2. Myself and Others
3. Myself and the Wider World

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

SPHE will be taught in Scoil Bhríde through a combination of the following contexts:

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

Scoil Bhríde has created a positive atmosphere by:

- catering for individual needs
- creating a health-promoting physical environment
- enhancing self-esteem
- fostering respect for diversity and fostering inclusive and respectful language

### **2. Discrete time for SPHE**

SPHE is allocated ½ hour per week on each teacher's timetable in Scoil Bhríde. However teachers may allocate 1 hour per fortnight to allow for more in-depth exploration of a strand unit.

### **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 subject areas such as Language, Geography, History, Religion, Visual Arts, Drama, Physical Education, etc. Themes/Projects such as Healthy Eating Week, Friendship Week, Agri-Awareness, Lenten Campaign, etc. will also be explored.

## **1 Approaches and Methodologies:**

Scoil Bhríde believe 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

## **2 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 Bhríde 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.

### **3 *Equality of Participation and Access:***

Scoil Bhríde 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.

### **Teaching Methods and Methodology:**

There are 6 basic methods for teaching SPHE

1. Talk and discussion
2. Learning through cooperation
3. Active learning
4. Learning from the environment
5. Learning skills through the subject matter
6. Problem solving

Attention will be given to children with different needs

The subject matter will be integrated with other areas of the curriculum

Thirty minutes will be allocated for S.P.H.E. in each class level every week or 1 hour per fortnight on the classroom timetable.

### **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 Bhríde uses the following recommended informal tools for assessment in SPHE:

- *Teacher observation*
- *Teacher-designed tasks and tests*
- *Portfolios/Scrapbooks*
- *Portfolios and projects*
- *Children's displays and presentations*

Each child will keep an SPHE Scrapbook and this will be used to assess a child's progress in SPHE. Each year the child will be given a teacher-designed task or test related to the strand units taught, and the scrapbook will be added to cumulatively during the child's schooling. Finally, an informal "graduation ceremony" will be held in 6<sup>th</sup> class when the child will receive their scrapbook as a record of their work in SPHE during their schooling in Scoil Bhríde.

### **Sources and Resources:**

The experience of teachers and children in a primary school in Scoil Bhríde. We will also draw upon books, videos, multimedia, internet resources and school visitors.

**Books:** Resource Materials for Relationships and Sexuality Education (Dept. of Education)  
Be Safe (National Safety Council)  
Stay Safe (Dept. of Health)  
Bí Folláin (Mid Western Health Board)  
Walk Tall  
Busy Bodies  
Food Dudes  
Alive-O  
Other Resource Books

### **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.

**Visitors/Other People:** Community Guard  
City Council Official  
Priest  
Nurse/Doctor  
Dentist  
Authors  
Librarian  
Sport Coaches  
Parents/Grandparents  
HSE Health Promotion Officers  
Other relevant visitors

## **Multimedia &**

### **Internet Resources:**

The Stay Safe Programme  
Alive-O  
Emergency First Aid  
Farm Safety Show  
The Super Smile Show  
Child Safety  
Old Age  
Exploring Civilizations  
How Your Body Works

### **Parental Involvement:**

Parental involvement is considered an integral part to effectively implementing SPHE as Scoil Bhríde 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.

### **Home/School/Community Links:**

Scoil Bhríde circulates a Nuachtlitir to all families regularly containing relevant news on on-going school activities.

S.P.H.E. homework is to be discussed with parents and signed when necessary in order to ensure continuity between the school and home in relation to S.P.H.E. (e.g. RSE and Stay Safe)

Scoil Bhríde will endeavor to establish links with community members who could share local folklore, tales, traditions and blas na Gaeilge.

### **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 Bhríde 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 by September 2016.

## Review

(a) 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. The Principal and Deputy Principal are responsible for coordinating this review.

Those involved in the review will include:

*Teachers*

*Pupils*

*Parents*

*Post holders/plan coordinator*

*BoM/DES/Others*

(b) Timeframe:

This plan will be reviewed in Year 1 of the SPHE curriculum plan.

## Ratification and Communication

The Board of Management of Scoil Bhríde ratified this plan on

\_\_\_\_\_.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

