



### **St. Augustine's SPHE Policy**

This policy was adopted by the board on \_\_\_\_\_

To be reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson of the BOM \_\_\_\_\_

Principal & Secretary of the BOM \_\_\_\_\_

Implementation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date set for Review \_\_\_\_\_

The chairperson of the Board of Management, Ms. Colette McGrath, St. Augustine's School, The Chapel, Sexton Street, Limerick, and the Acting Principal Teacher, Maeve Lynch, St. Augustine's School, Sexton Street, Limerick will be happy to clarify any further matters arising from the policy.

# Whole School Policy on Social, Personal and Health Education

## School Mission Statement/ethos:

### Definition of Social, Personal and Health Education

Social Personal and Health Education. SPHE provides opportunities for teaching and learning to take place that are directly related to health and wellbeing. SPHE aims to develop student's positive sense of themselves and their physical, social, emotional and spiritual health and wellbeing. It also aims to build the capacity of young people to develop and maintain healthy relationships.

*"SPHE Junior Cycle for Teachers".*

### The Aims of SPHE:

Building on the aims of SPHE in the primary school, at post-primary level SPHE aims:

To develop skills for self-fulfillment and living in communities.

To promote self-esteem and self-confidence.

To enable the student to make informed decisions and choices about the social, personal and health dimensions of life both now and in the future.

To provide opportunities for reflection and discussion.

To promote physical, mental and emotional health and well-being.

To foster a sense of care and respect in his/herself.

## Relationship to School Ethos/Mission/Vision/Aims

St. Augustine's School is a community which is committed to developing each person's full potential in a positive, supportive environment.

The SPHE Programme has developed out of a vision for holistic education of the individual, providing a myriad of valuable life skills which is entirely compatible with the Ethos of St. Augustine's School and its commitment to the education of the whole student in a caring and supportive environment.

This policy is rooted in our fundamental aim to develop each member of the school community. Through the implementation of this policy we strive to enact the stated Mission, Vision and Aims of St Augustine's School.

## Rationale for Policy

St Augustine's School understands that the home is the natural and primary place where students grow, develop and mature into adults.

However, as educators we have a duty *"to promote the moral, spiritual, social and personal development of students and provide health education for them, in consultation with their parents, having regard to the characteristic spirit of the school,"*

(Paragraph 9 (d) sub section of the Education Act 1998).

**Roles & Responsibilities in developing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating this policy**

1. **Board of Management**

The Board will ensure that the ethos and values of the Trustees are reflected in the formulation and implementation of this policy.

2. **Principal and Deputy Principal**

The Principal and Deputy Principal are committed to supporting all those involved in delivering the SPHE Programme in St. Augustine's School.

The management will facilitate in-house staff development and encourage training, upskilling and courses particularly when these programmes/ courses have a direct influence on student learning within the SPHE Programme.

3. **Wellbeing/SPHE Coordinator**

The Coordinator will work with the SPHE Teachers and the broader school community to ensure a coherent and consistent delivery of the programme during each year of school and maintains records of meetings and updates.

The Coordinator will work with the various partners in developing the programme to meet the emerging needs of students.

4. **Teachers of SPHE**

Teachers will adhere to and implement the agreed four year SPHE scheme in accordance with the Junior Cycle SPHE Short Course specification. The relationship fostered in the classroom is based on mutual respect. Teachers will avail of opportunities to participate in external programmes/ courses that have a direct influence on student learning within the SPHE Programme.

## **Content of Plan:**

Outlined in St. Augustine's collaborative year SPHE Junior Cycle Scheme in adherence with the Junior Cycle SPHE Short Course specification

## **Implementation:**

### **Teaching & Learning Methods**

St. Augustine's School creates a safe learning environment that is flexible, inclusive, creative and collaborative. Teachers will endeavor to adopt a thematic approach to SPHE by integrating with other subject areas, and by participating in themed projects/ world events, International and national days and weeks.

As the SPHE programme is mainly skills based, teaching and learning styles will be of an active, experiential nature with an emphasis on discussion, reflection and classroom participation. These teaching methods will be appropriate to the age and stage of development of the student. Incorporating assessment for learning into SPHE teaching methods, can inform the teacher of the personal response and understanding of pupils to particular topics.

### **The Role of Visitors**

It is the duty of the teacher who organises the visit to ensure the suitability of the visit to the programme and the school. Teachers will remain with the class for the duration of the visit. Principal must be informed in advance of all visiting speakers and the content of their presentation.

### **Sensitive Issues**

Class discussion will be of a general nature and not be personally directed. The SPHE teacher will act as a facilitator and not a counsellor. Teachers advise students to keep parents updated when dealing with sensitive issues. If individual issues emerge they will be referred on by the teacher to the appropriate person(s). ie Our In-house care team.. All teachers and staff are aware of their responsibilities under Child Protection legislation. All staff should be certified with Tusla in "Children First" training.

## **Review and Evaluation:**

The policy will be reviewed annually and staff, students and parents will have an opportunity to suggest additions and amendments. The evaluation of the SPHE programme will take place annually and will include teachers, students and the principal/deputy principal.

## **Appendix/ Policies that support SPHE**

- Child protection
- Anti-Bullying
- Relationships and Sexuality Education
- Substance use
- Enrolment
- Code of behaviour
- Health and Safety
- Mobile phone Policy