

■ Physical

Learning intention To describe ways of being safe in communities.

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Introduction and content

The Department of Education outlines a number of steps that need to be taken in order to ensure the safety of pupils in various contexts:

First of all, with regard to online safety it needs to be recognised that people can sometimes behave differently online and pretend to be someone they are not. Pupils need to be conversant with the rules and principles for keeping safe online which includes being aware of the risks, how information and data is shared, harmful content and contact and how to report these. Also, they need to critically consider their online friendships and sources of information associated with people they have never met.

Secondly, pupils need to be alert to the sorts of boundaries that are appropriate in friendships with peers and others (including in a digital context). They must be aware that it is not always right to keep secrets if they relate to being safe.

They should expect to be treated with respect and show respect to others, and should know about different types of bullying (including cyber-bullying).

There must be a setting of appropriate boundaries, such as: realising that each person's body is their own; privacy and its implications for both pupils and adults; awareness of the difference between appropriate, unsafe or other contact.

They should know what a stereotype is, and how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive. The importance of permission-seeking and giving in relationships with friends, peers and adults needs to be emphasised. Pupils must recognise and report feelings of being unsafe or feeling bad about any adult. They must be clear about how to seek advice or help for themselves or others, and to keep trying until they are heard. Above all, they must know how to report concerns or abuse and be equipped with the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.

"Parents need to consider what they want their children to be exposed to, and this necessarily means being concerned about who is providing their entertainment, who is entering their rooms through television and electronic devices, and with whom they are spending their free time."

Pope Francis