Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum

Concept summary – Senior Years: Years 10–12

Focus Area 1: Right to be safe

Topics: Risk-taking and emergencies; Psychological pressure and manipulation

- Young people often confuse feelings with physical responses or body messages. Students build on their knowledge of warning signs and explore scenarios relevant to their age. They assess risky and challenging situations and strategies for managing these. Positive psychology is investigated as a way of managing stressful and/or risky situations.
- Psychological pressure and manipulation is explored and strategies are identified to stop it occurring and/or reduce its impact. A range of age appropriate scenarios are used such as within relationships and situations that have an imbalance or power.

Focus Area 2: Relationships

Topics: Rights and responsibilities; Identity and relationships; Power in relationships; Trust and networks

- Students explore both the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. Rights and responsibilities within intimate relationships are covered, including sexual consent and the laws.
- Healthy and unhealthy relationships are explored and students identify the representation of relationships within popular media. The social construction of gender, gender stereotypes and expectations are explored using a range of resources, and strategies are identified to safely challenge them.
- Power, the types of power and the way power is used are covered in detail in a range of contexts. Students explore discrimination and sexual harassment in a range of situations, such as at school and at work.
- Students consider trusted networks for a wide range of situations such as being at a party, travelling and at work. Using friends and peers as networks and how to be an effective peer network are also explored.

Focus Area 3: Recognising and reporting abuse

Topics: Privacy and the body; Recognising abuse; Cyber safety; Domestic and family violence

- Students investigate different aspects of health and the body and issues that may arise now or in the future. Privacy is reinforced – everyone has the right to privacy and the whole body is private. Accessing health services confidentially is also explored.
- Students identify physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and neglect, and more specifically focus on abuse in relationships. Grooming, dating violence and date rape are all addressed and students explore myths and realities of child abuse.
- Students explore online abuse and cyberbullying and strategies to keep themselves safe online. Students explore the potential risks associated with using digital technologies and are informed of the relevant laws, including laws about child pornography and sexting. Digital reputation is also covered, with a focus on the negative impact their online behaviour (in particular their social media activity) can have on their future.
- Students extend their understanding of domestic and family violence, exploring the underlying issues, relevant statistics, the cycle of violence and the impact it has (including on children and young people). Students investigate safe bystander intervention strategies and a range of support services that are available.

Focus Area 4: Protective strategies

Topic: Strategies for keeping safe; Network review and community support

- Students identify situations where self-protection and resilience is important for young adults. Effective communication, persistence and problem-solving strategies are applied to a range of age appropriate scenarios.
- Students review support services and their trusted networks that could be used in a wide range of situations. Intervention orders are identified as a strategy available for situations of extreme violence or threats of violence.

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