



Scoil Naomh Iosef Physical Education Policy

Introductory Statement

This Policy Statement is a record of practice in Scoil Naomh Iosef regarding the teaching and learning of Physical Education (P.E). This Policy Statement was reviewed by teaching staff during Term 1 of the 2018/2019 School Year. It was subsequently reviewed and approved at the Staff Meeting held on January 22nd 2019. The Policy Statement was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management at its Meeting on January 28th 2019. Following consideration of the Primary Curriculum Framework, this policy was once again reviewed and amended following collaboration by staff in Term 1 2024.

The Policy Statement is guided by the curriculum documents produced and published by the Department of Education and Skills (1999), the Primary Curriculum Framework and the Well-being in Primary Schools Guidelines.

This Policy Statement is produced in order to fulfil the obligations placed on the BOM regarding the development of a School Plan as outlined in the Education Act (1998).

Rationale

- To review the existing Policy Statement and Plan for P.E.
- To guide teachers in their individual planning for P.E. by putting in place a structured approach regarding the content and methodologies for the teaching of P.E. in Scoil Naomh Iosef.

Vision and Aims

(a) **Vision:** Scoil Naomh Iosef recognises that P.E. is part of a balanced curriculum which aims to develop the whole spectrum of the child's intelligence. We also seek to develop the child's physical, aesthetic, intellectual, emotional, creative and cultural development through engagement in positive P.E. experiences.

(b) **Aims:** Scoil Naomh Iosef endorse the aims of the Primary School Curriculum for P.E.

- To promote the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of the child.
- To develop positive personal qualities.
- To help in the acquisition of an appropriate range of movement skills in a variety of contexts.
- To promote understanding and knowledge of the various aspects of movement.
- To develop an appreciation of movement and the use of the body as an instrument of expression and creativity.
- To promote enjoyment of, and positive attitudes towards, physical activity and its contribution to lifelong health-related fitness, thus preparing the child for the active and purposeful use of leisure time.

Curriculum Planning

1. Strands and Strand Units

Teachers are familiar with the strands/strand unit's/content objectives for the relevant class level(s).

Physical Education Curriculum:

- Infant classes p. 16-23
- First and Second classes p. 24-34
- Third and Fourth classes p. 38-46
- Fifth and Sixth classes p. 48-59
- Aquatics: Junior Infants-Sixth p.62-64

Teachers will choose a range of activities for all strands for each class. All children will have access to the strands of the PE curriculum. The practical aspects of the aquatics strand will be covered in classes 3rd to 6th. Children will attend swimming lessons in a suitable swimming pool for a six week block with qualified instructors annually. (Reference to this is also made in the Child Safeguarding Statement.)

Opportunities will be created to develop an understanding and appreciation of each strand unit.

Teachers will ensure that there is continuity and progression from class to class.

2. Approaches and Methodologies

Physical Education Teacher Guidelines p. 42-101

A combination of the following approaches will be used;

- Direct teaching approach p. 43
- Guided discovery approach p. 43-44
- Integration p. 45-49

Methods that encourage maximum participation by the child through group work will be used;

- Individual, pair, group and team play p. 51
- Station teaching p. 51-53
- Using a play area divided into grids p. 54

3. Assessment and Record Keeping

Scoil Naomh Iosef recognises the importance of assessment and record keeping in the delivery of the P.E. Curriculum. Much assessment will focus on the children's learning and how best to inform subsequent planning and teaching. Teachers will observe which areas children are achieving in and which areas need further development.

Teachers should approach assessment in P.E. by referring to the school's assessment policy, to the Teacher Guidelines p 98-100 and to the Curriculum Statement p 68-74 and examine children's engagement in terms of the strand units.

Teacher observation and note taking will be central to all assessment in P.E. Other forms of assessment may include basic teacher-designed tests and tasks, projects, recordings of children's work, and graphic/pictorial scores.

4. Inclusion

It is the policy of Scoil Naomh Iosef that all children will participate in P.E. activities. Activities will be differentiated in order to meet the needs of individual children. This will be done by careful grouping of children, awareness of the teacher of children's abilities when giving instructions and by providing opportunities for different methods of reflection.

Pupils with physical needs: It is the policy of Scoil Naomh Iosef that we set suitable learning challenges, respond to pupils' diverse learning needs, and overcome potential barriers to learning and assessment for particular individuals and groups of pupils. We aim to modify the curriculum to remove barriers so all pupils meet the same objectives. In order to remove these barriers, we aim to provide adapted, modified or alternative activities that offer an equivalent degree of challenge to the activities in the programmes of study and that enable the pupils to make progress. We aim to provide specific support pupils may need to take part in certain activities or types of movement, and careful management of their physical regime to allow for their specific medical conditions.

5. Equality of Participation and Access

Equal opportunities will be given to all children regardless of gender, ethnic background, and socio-economic status across all strands and activities.

6. Linkage and Integration

(Refer to Curriculum p. 13, 18, 37, p.45-47 Teacher Guidelines)

Linkage is inherent to the P.E. process. The teacher will consider how objectives can be achieved through linkage and integration.

Teachers are encouraged to integrate P.E. with other subjects in a way that complements curriculum aims and objectives in both subjects. Integration is encouraged where it is natural and where children's learning can be maximised. Where possible, a thematic approach for integration is a model supported by the school.

The school sees particular opportunities for integration with other subjects such as Gaeilge, English, Art, Music, Mathematics and especially SPHE.

7. Timetable... Organisational Planning

PE is included in the Time Allocation for Wellbeing included in the Primary Curriculum Framework. The monthly allocation for Wellbeing is as follows:

Stage 1 -2 hours 30 mins

Stage 2- 3 hours

Stage 3 and 4-3 hours

Timetables will record the time allocation for Physical Education. Teachers should ensure that pupils attending supplementary teaching are included for as much of the P.E. programme as possible.

8. Code of Ethics

See Scoil Naomh Iosef's Child Protection Policy based on the Department of Education and Skills' Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools. Also refer to the school's SPHE plan.

9. After-School and Out of School Activities

Scoil Naomh Iosef provides further opportunities for P.E. within an extra-curricular programme. These opportunities may include football, hurling, camogie, handball.

Scoil Naomh Iosef enters various sporting competitions annually including: Cumann na mBunscoil Football, Hurling and Camogie, F.A.I.S. (soccer). Normally 3rd to 6th class children participate in these competitions which are held throughout the year.

Scoil Naomh Iosef holds an annual Sports Day in June.

Scoil Naomh Iosef also participates in the Active Schools Initiative and novel, fun and engaging activities are organised for Active Schools Week annually.

10. P.E. Equipment

The school has an inventory of appropriate equipment and resources available for P.E. The equipment is stored safely in the P.E. store adjoining the halla and is available to all teachers. A checklist of equipment is available for all teachers. P.E. equipment is purchased as the need arises.

11. Health and Safety (See Health & Safety Policy)

As with all curricular areas, the P.E. Curriculum will maintain due care to our school's Health and Safety Policy.

Care and attention will be given to the following:

- warm-up at the start of all physical activity
- practising in confined spaces
- use of equipment
- supervision on visits out of the school
- activities involving the whole school yard
- procedures for dealing with accidents

A list of staff members with First Aid training and Defibrillator training will be brought to the attention of all staff members.

Staff members are aware when certain children have specific medical conditions.

12. Individual Teacher's Planning and Reporting

All teachers will have access to the P.E. plan available on the school Dropbox and will be encouraged to refer to it when doing their long term and short term planning.

At the September staff meeting a suitable period of time is agreed during which gymnastics is covered at all class levels.

The Cúntas Míósúil is an important indicator and record of work carried out in P.E. Teachers will record their work in P.E. for a particular month.

13. Staff Development

Teachers have access to reference books, resource materials, equipment and websites dealing with P.E. Teachers in Scoil Naomh Iosef make particular use of the PSSI website and PDST physical literacy manuals. Resources relating to P.E. are stored in the P.E. store adjacent to the halla.

From time to time P.E. will be on the agenda of staff meetings. This will allow for development of the plan and also give an opportunity for members of staff to share ideas that are working for them.

Teachers will be informed about upcoming courses in the education centres and other bodies providing professional development through the Staff Room Notice Board and on Aladdin.

14. Parental Involvement (Refer to Primary School Curriculum, Your child's learning, Guidelines for Parents)

- Parents with a specific sporting skill may be invited to assist with particular aspects of the P.E. plan e.g. dance, orienteering, kayaking, hurling. Garda Vetting will apply.
- A copy of the P.E. plan will be made available in the office and on the school website for perusal by parents.
- Parents can support the child in fostering interest in P.E. without putting undue pressure on children to always win, by encouraging them to participate actively in P.E. class and extra-curricular activities.
- Parents are invited to view the children's participation in P.E. at inter-school competitions.

15. Community Links/Outside Expertise

- Members of clubs/groups in the community and beyond may be invited to support the school's P.E. programme. e.g. Handball, GAA, Golf, Gymnastics Ireland, Dance.
- Sports persons with an understanding of the P.E. curriculum in the locality may be asked to work with the children or up-skill staff.
- The children may be brought on excursions to promote appreciation of aspects of P.E. e.g. school tours to Croke Park, U.L. Activity Centre, Ballyhass Lakes etc.

Success Criteria

These criteria will indicate success:

- Teachers' short-term and long-term planning is based on this plan
- Procedures outlined in this plan are consistently followed
- Children enjoy participation in the P.E. programme.

Means of assessing the outcomes of the plan include:

- Teacher/parent feedback
- Children's feedback
- Inspectors' suggestions/reports

Importance of enjoyment and play through:

- Maximum participation by all children
- Development of skills and understanding
- A balance between competitive and non-competitive activities
- Providing opportunities for achievement for each child

Implementation

(a) **Roles and Responsibilities;** All teachers have responsibility for the implementation of the curriculum within their own class.

(b) **Timeframe;** Implementation is on-going.

Review

Roles and Responsibilities;

Each teacher and the staff as a group will evaluate the progress in P.E. by referring back to our set of stated objectives as stated in this plan.

Ratification and Communication;

This Physical Education Policy Statement was reviewed by teaching staff members during Term 1 of the 2018/2019 school year. It was subsequently reviewed and approved at the Staff Meeting held on January 22nd 2019. The Policy Statement was subsequently reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management at its Meeting on January 28th 2019.

This policy underwent further review in light of the Primary Curriculum Framework in September 2024 and was ratified by the board on 25TH SEPTEMBER 2024.



Handwritten signature and date: 25/9/2024

Implementation Date;

Implementation of this revised Policy Statement shall commence with effect from

25/09/2024.

Timetable for review;

It is the intention of the BOM to review this Policy Statement from time to time. In this regard feedback from all members of the school community is encouraged.

Signed -Chairperson _____

Date: _____