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The teaching of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSE)

Dear Parents,

During the second half of the summer term, all year groups will learn about growing up, our bodies and relationships. *Most* of this learning is part of Science, Relationships Education and Health Education, **which is compulsory**.

The following information gives an overview of our teaching for each year group:

Year R will learn that humans have children who grow into adults. They will also learn about differences between bodies, and how to keep themselves clean.

Years 1 and 2 will learn that human babies grow inside their mothers, alongside learning in science that adult animals produce offspring like themselves (such as cats have kittens and cows have calves).

Years 3 and 4 will learn that every human began when a seed from a male and an egg from a female join together. They will not yet learn about the means by which an egg and sperm join.

Years 5 and 6 will learn about male and female sexual parts, aspects of puberty, and personal hygiene.

Year 6 (additional learning) will learn about caring relationships and how babies are conceived and born – including sexual reproduction and intercourse.

Please also see further information below, detailing the **correct scientific terminology** which will be taught.

Important government (statutory) information regarding the teaching of RSE:

- Parents cannot withdraw their child from *Relationships Education* in primary school.
- Parents do have a right to withdraw their child from primary school classes which address sex education.
- Primary schools are required to teach National Curriculum Science, which includes some elements of sex education. Parents do not have a right to withdraw from this.

We recognise that the role parents play in the development of their children's understanding about relationships is vital. Parents are the first teachers of their children. They have the most significant influence in enabling their children to grow and mature and to form healthy relationships. Therefore, if you would like to discuss the lesson content further, please contact your child's class teacher who will be happy to discuss the lessons in more detail.

Additionally, I am also happy to answer any questions you may have. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Matthews
RSE Lead

Information for parents

The use of correct vocabulary in Primary Relationships, Sex and Health Education

Why name sexual parts?

School is a place where all children should be able to develop good communication skills, confidence, positive body image and strong personal safety skills. RSE is one vehicle for enabling children to develop these skills in a safe and supportive environment. We know that having names for things is a way we can comfortably bring them into our experience and feel connection with them and control over them.

For many adults, the use of vocabulary to describe the human body and in particular, the sexual parts of the human body, can be a sensitive topic. Some people personally feel uncomfortable using particular words and are anxious that teaching scientific words for sexual parts to children, may challenge their innocence.

However, age-appropriate use of scientific vocabulary for sexual parts contributes to positive body image, open discussion and the development of strong personal safety skills. Furthermore, the basic skill of being able to confidently name parts of our own bodies without feelings of embarrassment or shame, is a key building block in the RSE curriculum.

The DfE Guidance for Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education (2019) states that as part of primary Relationships Education, children should learn the following as part of the 'Being Safe' area of work:

How to reports concerns or abuse, and the vocabulary and confidence needed to do so.

It is therefore part of the **statutory curriculum** for all schools that children learn the names of body parts and how to talk confidently about these to trusted adults. Learning the names for sexual parts is a protective factor. If children haven't been equipped with the words for parts of their bodies and have picked up the message that adults don't talk about them either, how can they be expected to describe them to an adult if they need to? This has serious implications for child protection.

Below is the main list of **scientific language** used, which is in line with guidance from Cambridgeshire PSHE/RSE Curriculum.

Stage	Key area of learning	Vocabulary
Foundation and KS1	External body parts	Penis testicles vagina bottom
Year 3 and 4	External body parts Differences between male and female First steps in understanding sexual reproduction	Penis testicles vagina bottom breast nipple anus scrotum egg sperm
Year 5 and 6	External body parts Puberty	Penis testicles vagina breast nipple anus scrotum

	<p>Internal body parts</p> <p>Sexual reproduction</p>	<p>Puberty period menstruation ovulation pubic hair voice breaking egg sperm</p> <p>Cervix fallopian tube labia ovary vagina uterus/womb urethra sperm/sperm duct</p> <p>sexual intercourse ejaculate conception pregnancy</p>
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