St. Nicholas School Canterbury

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Kent County Council

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Dear Parents and Carers

RE: pupils bringing 'chewlry' / chew toys into school.

From September, we will be making a small but important change to how manage chew toys in school. Whilst many children already come into school with chew toys we need to share that we have designed, with support from Kent County Council (Health and Safety) some monitoring forms to help ensure that all items sent in are safe and fit for purpose. *(These can be found on pages 2 and 3 of this document).*

Some chew toy items that are purchased from less-reputable sources, have the potential to contain internal parts, may contain toxic material, break up more easily and / or have strain chains without a breakable snap clap. These items are not always safe as they can present a choking risk or could get caught / snagged leading to them pulling tightly around the neck.

We need to ensure that the items that are sent in:

- Are purchased from a reputable source
- Are age and stage appropriate
- Have no internal parts
- Has a working breakable clasp
- Is in a good condition

We already make daily informal visual checks on any items sent in from home, but starting from September we will make a formal inspection of chewing items once per term. This will sit alongside the daily checks.

NB: if any items are deemed unsafe, we will take them out of use and sent them home with a request for a replacement (which too will be formally inspected).

Best wishes

Stephen King

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STNS Form 1 – Approval for sensory (mouthing) chewy item(s) from home for use in St Nicholas School

Pupil Name:

Class: Pathway:

Any sensory (mouthing) chewy item(s) must meet all the following requirements before acceptance by the school is given:

Indicate if requirement met	Check required
	Has the sensory (mouthing) chewy item been purchased from a reputable company that tests products for compliance with all applicable conformity safety standards e.g. CE mark, and the British Standard for toy safety (BS EN 71) and is deemed safe for placing in the mouth and chewing for extended periods of time?
	Provide name of reputable source:
	Provide name of product:
	Is age or stage appropriate for the pupils at the school.
	Has no internal parts.
	Is made from non-toxic materials and is free from harmful substances and/or chemicals.
	There is a working breakable clasp for safety if the chewy item has a necklace/lanyard (risk of strangulation by pulling or getting caught).
	The chewy item and associated parts (e.g. lanyard) are in good condition with no discolouration, cracking, sharp edges or any other signs of significant wear and tear or deterioration.

To eliminate the risk of possible strangulation it is recommended to purchase sensory (mouthing) chewy items that could be worn around the wrist.

Parents/carers should be reminded to regularly clean chewy items with warm soapy water and store in a clean, dry container.

Approval by parent/carer

I confirm all the above requirements have been met and the sensory (mouthing) chewy item is suitable for use in the school:

Full name of parent/carer:

Parent/carer signature: Date:

Has approval been given by a school representative? Yes / No

The school must inspect the sensory (mouthing) chewy item - if the school deems it is not suitable or in an unsafe condition the item will not be approved or allowed to be used at the school.

Name and position:

Signature: Date:

STNS Form 3

Sensory (mouthing) chewy item(s) termly recorded inspections by school

Daily visual inspections on all sensory (mouthing) chewy items will be carried out by staff – if any item is deemed unsafe it will be removed immediately and replaced.

All sensory (mouthing) chewy item(s) will be inspected termly (with a record kept) to ensure items remain in a good condition and are safe to use.

Pupil name:
Class:
Pathway:
Date inspection completed:

Check of approved chewy items	**Safe to use - yes / no / not applicable**
Does the necklace/lanyard have a workable breakable clasp?	
Is there any discoloration?	
Are there any sharp edges?	
Has the item cracked?	
Have any of the items got broken pieces?	
Are there any other significant signs of wear and tear or deterioration?	
Inspected by school	
Full name:	
Position:	
How many chewy items required removal? (unsafe chewy items will be removed immediately and returned home).	