



## **Relationships Education/ Relationships and Sex Education, new statutory guidance update**

As you may be aware, the government have issued new statutory guidance for relationships and sex education in schools, which schools need to have in place by September 2026. At Castle School, we already go over and above the statutory guidance and are therefore already teaching most of the new guidance. New guidance that we already teach, includes, for example using anatomically correct body parts across the school, travel safety and accessing healthcare services, information for these lessons are included in these newsletters. There are lots of important additions that will be included in our planning for September, that weren't as prevalent when the 2020 guidance was published, for example more information about vaping, AI and a greater focus on online risks, as technology develops. We will continue to plan and teach lessons that are appropriate to each pupils age and understanding, ensuring that everyone has access to a robust PSHE curriculum that sets them up for life. Please do ask Hayley, if you have any questions about the new curriculum. We are excited about the changes that ensure our curriculum remains relevant to life today.

### **Celebrations of our learning this term:**

At the Castle School, we work really hard in PSHE, and have some celebrations to share with you:

As part of our travel safety lessons, many classes access Try a train workshops, and free train trips. Recently Dover and Portchester enjoyed their Try a Train workshop. Students asked lots of sensible questions and learned lots about rail safety and travel. Tiverton class travelled on a train to Reading and were able to demonstrate their learning about train safety.

Some classes in Donnington house have been learning about travelling on planes, with a fabulous sensory story that took them on "Ginny airlines" where one of our teachers dressed up to help tell the story. Look at our pupils' engagement and fabulous communication with big macs!

At Castle, we celebrate how unique we all are. Wallingford class have been learning to identify similarities and differences in each other, and as you can see, were very engaged in the task.

We work on understanding emotions throughout the day, as well as during our PSHE lessons. We use a total communication approach at Castle and students have access to visuals and signs to help communicate and understand their emotions. York class have been working hard learning to name emotions, during their PSHE lessons. Barry class have been doing some super signing of emotions – have a look at

### **Some photos of our learning**



their fabulous signing of sad in the photo section!

Tiverton have been learning about healthy and unhealthy relationships.

We do lots of our PSHE learning out in the community. Blaise recently went to see Gruffalo's Child at the Corn Exchange and had lunch in the café.

Staff have completed their training on how to use the **Chailey Heritage RSHE programme**, which is designed to support our learners with severe and profound learning difficulties, to be able to access RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education,) using sensory stories, props, and anatomically correct dolls. The third session that took part this term focused on Safeguarding. Lots of classes are using the dolls to support their understanding of RSHE. School Council project to improve the **sensory garden**, funded by Friends of Castle, is still being planned. **Thank you Friends of Castle!** They have chosen paint colours and plants. The site team have already restored the raised beds, fences and other structures. The rest of the work can be completed by a local company, next term. Arrangements are being made to buy the paint, compost and plants, and have the tools ready for our very kind volunteers. We are very proud of how considerate the school council have been to their peers, ensuring everyone is included and has something that they will enjoy. Well done and thank you to all involved. We are very excited about our sensory garden and will keep you updated on its progress!

Post 16 School council representatives have also been meeting this year, to discuss specific Post 16 issues, that they want to work on, including lunchtime activities.

All of school council met to discuss what they wanted to have in their playground. Thanks to their brilliant ideas, Terri and Averil are now working hard with Opal education, to get some of their chosen equipment into the playground, including more balls. There are now a wide selection of lunch clubs, at Love Lane, including Karaoke, colouring, glove skills, and choir.

**Just a reminder that everyone with an EHCP, age 14 plus, is eligible for an annual health check.**

**Here is some information from Dr Heather Howells , who is the GP Clinical Lead for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, for Berkshire West:**

**You may be aware that from the age of 14, everyone in a special needs school, is eligible for an Annual Health Check at their GP surgery. All people with a Learning Disability aged 14 and over should receive a**



**The Castle School is a National Online Safety certified school again this year (2024-25). Well done to all involved. We are also well on the way to achieving our accreditation for 25-26. We need a parent to complete a course, so please contact Hayley if you can help.**

You can see our plaque in reception, along with some internet safety guides, which you can also download from the National Online Safety workshop, or pick up from the display in the pastoral room. There are also some guides on our school website, in We have National Online Safety logins for all staff, so that everyone can help keep our pupils safe. All teachers, Tas and safeguarding leads have completed their annual certificate for online safety this year, so that we can help keep our pupils safe online. Many staff have also accessed other courses and seminars. Teachers are able to use the resources and planning to ensure that we are giving our students relevant and up to date online safety lessons, throughout the year. Some parents and carers have signed up and have completed courses have accessed important

**check every year. The Annual Health check covers all aspects of health and wellbeing, you can learn more**

**about Annual Health Checks here:**

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/advice-and-support/health/annual-health-checks>

internet safety guides for their child. We are hoping that more parents will sign up soon. If you would like to sign up to help your child stay safe online, please do. We have put some useful courses in the watch list, once you log on.

We are sure that you will agree that online safety is so important to keep everyone safe, which is why we are committed to training our staff and giving our pupils the best possible lessons and care. We are looking forward to more parents joining us with our National Online safety journey. We will now be working on our 25-26 certification. Teachers, Tas and leadership have all had their annual, online safety training and are using the resources to teach pupils.

**If you would like a parent login, for National Online safety, (now called Wake up Wednesdays) to make use of the brilliant training and resources, please contact Hayley.**

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