



Relationships Education/ Relationships and Sex Education, new statutory Guidance update and focus group

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.

The Castle School are part of the focus group, providing feedback to the PSHE association, on their updated SEN planning framework, which is very exciting! The new framework is going to be even better than the last one for our pupils, with an extra column to break up the steps further, for our learners with severe and complex needs, and lots more up to date information for all our learners, with greater focus on areas mentioned above. We are working very hard, behind the scenes, to ensure that all planning is ready to go for September!

Celebrations of our learning this term:

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

We are very excited to tell you that work for the Sensory Garden is now very much underway! **Thank you to the site team** for ordering the paint and compost, and for all their hard work with raising the beds and securing the fences and the structures. Some fabulous WOW students from Post-16, have started internal work experience at our Love Lane site. The students have started making the School Council's dream of a sensory garden a reality. The students started by listening to what the School Council hopes to achieve and their plans for the area. They then got to work, weeding the raised beds. The group demonstrated good communication skills and great teamwork. We are looking forward to seeing the garden develop over the coming weeks. The group got stuck right in, after the meeting with the school council, so we have no doubt that they will make very speedy progress during their weekly visits, and the garden will be looking brilliant in no time! Their jobs will include weeding, adding compost, and planting new sensory plants in the raised beds. The group will be painting the raised beds, tables and chairs and pergola, in the very colourful shades that the school council picked! The garden will be looking very colourful, very soon, and we are very excited! Once the beds are ready and painted, the WOW group are going to go shopping, with

Some photos of our learning



Martin, our green fingered caretaker, to buy some sensory plants for the garde, **thanks Martin. Thank you Post 16 WOW students; you are doing us proud! Thanks to the School Council** for being determined to make the sensory garden an inviting learning space for all students again. We are proud that they particularly wanted to get it right for their peers who use wheelchairs, ensuring the beds were raised to a suitable height (by our fab site team, and that the plants chosen **Thank you Friends of Castle** for funding this brilliant project, that will benefit our whole school community.

Staff are putting to good use, 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. Lots of classes are using the dolls to support their understanding of RSHE. Windsor class have been using the dolls to learn about public and private places , and have been taking the dolls round the school, to aid their learning, and find out if the doll is in a public or private place. Well done Windsor. York have also been doing lots of fab work with the dolls.

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 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>



The Castle School is a National Online Safety certified school (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 compete 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 completed their annual certificate for online safety again, at the start of the academic year, so that we can help keep our pupils safe online. Many staff continue to access 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. Lots of these resources are also including in the PSHE planning documents, and more will be added, to the updated planning, by September.

Some parents and carers have signed up and have completed courses have accessed important 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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