



"Nurturing Hearts, Growing Minds, Opening Eyes, Imagining Futures"

Monday 19th June 2023

Dear Parents,

Throughout the school year we complete various pieces of work relating to relationships and sex education. These discussions and activities become a normal part of the school curriculum and don't go into any real detail. However, during the summer term we always work more closely with the Year 5 and 6 pupils on an 'Approaching Adolescence' program. This program allows pupils to hear the correct terminology for female and male body parts, it discusses the changes that they may notice in their bodies throughout the next few years (puberty) and it even touches on what sex actually is.

Most local schools have now adopted a similar approach to this program, as advised and directed by the school nursing service. It begins with the pupils in Year 5 and 6 watching a BBC educational video (this is very old fashioned but still has the correct information). Following this, the pupils are encouraged to write down any questions that they may have. These are anonymous meaning that pupils don't have to feel embarrassed when asking for clarity or information. Following this activity, the school nurse Dawn Owen, will visit school and will answer the questions raised. In our experience, talking to someone unfamiliar makes this talk far more comfortable for the children. Dawn will then speak to the girls separately to discuss periods and to the boys should they request it.

We hope to show Year 5 and 6 pupils this video on Monday 3rd July, with the school nurse then visiting a few days later. In the past this talk was only for Year 6's, but the nursing service has found that children are entering puberty much earlier and that having this message on two consecutive years really helps pupils to understand the content prior to leaving primary.

As parents you have the right to request that your child doesn't participate in this program, however, over many years I have found that those who do participate often retell the contents to peers who have missed out, so hearing from the correct source is often preferable. If you do not want your child to attend this talk or would like to discuss this further, please contact me.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S M Corbett'.

Miss Sarah Corbett (Headteacher)