



Orchard Head J, I & N School
Orchard Head Lane
Pontefract
West Yorkshire
WF8 2NJ
T: 01977 723495
W: orchardhead.patrust.org.uk
E: admin@orchardhead.patrust.org.uk

Monday 4th March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

As part of the compulsory KS1 and KS2 Personal, Social and Health and Economic (PSHE) curriculum, this half term we will be learning about The Wider World in EYFS, Internet Safety in Key Stage One and My Changing Body in KS2, as mentioned in the previous PSHE newsletter. This is in line with the DFE guidance on Relationships and Sex and Health Education (RSE).

Pupils will also take part in our half-termly RSE INSIGHT afternoon. This half-term's theme is The PANTS Rule: My Body, My Rules. Children will recap the PANTS rules in an age-appropriate manner and learn how to report concerns. In order to teach this effectively, we will be teaching the children (or recapping for KS1 and KS2) the scientific names for their external genitalia. We will use the words vulva for girls and penis and testicles for boys. We are sure, as parents, you will agree that keeping children safe is paramount and, by partaking in these lessons, children will be equipped with the language they need to protect themselves and report anything that makes them feel upset or worried. It can feel tricky and embarrassing for some parents and other adults to use the correct terminology for private parts, however messages from research, as well as consistent reports from those that work in child psychology and child protection, have established that doing so reaps many positive benefits. Please note that we do not teach about sex or mention it at all. We also ensure we use child-friendly language at all times. Here are some key reasons why we, at Pontefract Academy Trust, feel it is vital for children to learn these anatomical correct words and take part in these lessons:

- Teaching children the anatomically correct words promotes and increases self-confidence and positive body image.
- Teaching children about consent and privacy will help to develop their personal and social skills and teach them right from wrong.
- It is important for children to know their rights and that their body belongs to them and they are in charge of it.
- It enables children to accurately report medical issues relating to their genitalia rather than giving vague descriptions.
- It increases open communication between child and parents, which will particularly help as they get older and head into puberty. This means they will be able to talk to you about concerns they may otherwise have been too embarrassed or ashamed to.
- From a safeguarding perspective, it equips them to be able to report any potential grooming or sexual abuse.

Parents and carers are the key people in educating their children about their bodies and how they are in charge of them. Often, children want their parents/carers to be the first people who talk to them about these topics. Parents and carers have a unique emotional relationship with their child and knowledge of their maturity and they can respond to their questions more spontaneously as they arise. The teaching offered by school should complement and support the teaching you provide at home. We understand that some questions may be difficult to answer and some conversations are not always the easiest to have. www.NSPCC.org.uk/pants is a helpful website with a catchy song!

As always, if we can support you further in any way, please speak to your child's class teacher or your school's PSHE lead.

Sincerely,

Miss Starkey – PSHE Lead