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Friday 5th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Life Skills

Our school prides itself on delivering effective, age-appropriate Life Skills that meets the needs of all our pupils within an inclusive and supportive learning environment; using non-biased resources. Life Skills is taught by experienced and skilled teaching staff who are committed to preparing your child to live and learn safely in the modern world, negotiating the transition into increasing independence with the development of knowledge, values and skills to make positive, healthy and safe choices.

Life Skills will deliver a spiral curriculum that enables pupils to build on their prior learning by revisiting some themes to further develop knowledge, values and skills in an age and stage-appropriate manner. As such, some themes are repeated to enable a deeper exploration of the related issues. Please see overleaf for our Life Skills Curriculum.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that none of the teaching materials or strategies should shock pupils. All lessons will be taught in a strictly non-judgemental and non-biased manner, to allow your child the opportunity to consider the information and develop their own values, attitudes and opinions about the topic. We would encourage you to discuss your child's relationships and Life Skills education with them at home. This is an opportunity for you to share your family values in relation to the topics, building strong channels of communication about emotions, the human body and relationships with your child.

As per our Life Skills Policy and Government guidelines parents are allowed the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of sex education delivered as part of statutory Life skills. This request will not include the statutory sex education, as part of the science curriculum. If you do request to withdraw your child from this area of the Life skills curriculum we will ask if you could come in and talk with myself and Miss Stedman so that we can ensure the children are still being taught this important topic at home.

Please feel free to contact the school if you would like to discuss our programme of Life Skills on an individual basis.

Yours sincerely

M. Wilson

Megan Wilson
Life Skills Subject Lead, Year 5/6 Teacher
The Bawburgh School



Reception

My feelings	My body	My relationships	My beliefs	My rights and responsibilities	Asking for help
Pupils can identify a range of feelings and how these are expressed, including words to describe them and simple strategies for managing feelings.	Pupils know the importance of basic personal hygiene and understand how to maintain basic personal hygiene.	Pupils understand that there are similarities and differences between everyone and can celebrate this.	Pupils can recognise what they like and dislike and feel empowered to make real, informed choices.	Pupils understand the concept of privacy, including the right to keep things private and the right another person has to privacy.	Pupils can identify the special people in their lives, what makes them special and how special people care for one another.

Year 1

My feelings	My body	My relationships	My beliefs	My rights and responsibilities	Asking for help
Pupils are able to communicate about feelings, to recognise how others show feelings and know how to respond.	Pupils can correctly name the main parts of the body, including external genitalia using scientific terms.	Pupils understand the importance of listening to other people, to play and work cooperatively including strategies to resolve simple arguments through negotiation.	Pupils can identify and respect the differences and similarities between people.	Pupils understand how some diseases are spread, including the right to be protected from diseases and the responsibility to protect others.	Pupils can identify the people who look after them, who to go to if they are worried and how to attract their attention.



Year 2

My feelings	My body	My relationships	My beliefs	My rights and responsibilities	Asking for help
Pupils can recognise and celebrate their strengths and achievements, and set simple but challenging goals.	Pupils can recognise how they grow and will change as they become older.	Pupils can recognise different types of teasing and bullying, understanding that these are wrong and unacceptable.	Pupils can identify the ways in which people and families are unique, understanding there has never been and will never be another them.	Pupils can judge what kind of physical contact is acceptable, comfortable, and uncomfortable and how to respond.	Pupils know the difference between secrets and surprises and the importance of not keeping a secret that makes them feel uncomfortable, worried or afraid.

Year 3

My feelings	My body	My relationships	My beliefs	My rights and responsibilities	Asking for help
Pupils can identify their strengths and set aspirational goals for themselves, understanding how this contributes to high self-esteem.	Pupils know how their body may change as they grow and develop, how to care for their body and celebrate their uniqueness.	Pupils can recognise a wide range of relationships, including the attributes of positive, healthy relationships.	Pupils can challenge gender stereotypes, understanding that there is not one way to be a boy, or one way to be a girl.	Pupils understand the right to protect their body from unwanted touch.	Pupils can identify the difference between secrets and surprise, knowing when it is right to break confidence and share a secret.



Year 4

My feelings	My body	My relationships	My beliefs	My rights and responsibilities	Asking for help
Pupils can recognise and respond to a wide range of emotions in themselves and others, and ways to respond.	Pupils can reflect on how their body has changed and anticipate body changes, understanding that some are related to puberty.	Pupils are able to judge what kind of physical behaviours and contact are acceptable and unacceptable, and ways to respond.	Pupils recognise differences and similarities between people arise from a number of factors Inc. family and personal identity.	Pupils know marriage is a commitment freely entered into by both people, and that no one should marry if they don't absolutely want to or are not making the decision freely for themselves.	Pupils can recognise when they may need help to manage a situation and have developed the skills to ask for help.

Year 5

My feelings	My body	My relationships	My beliefs	My rights and responsibilities	Asking for help
Pupils can anticipate how their emotions may change as they approach and move through puberty.	Pupils can anticipate how their body may change as they approach and move through puberty.	Pupils can identify healthy relationships and recognise the skills to manage and maintain healthy relationships.	Pupils know the correct terms associated with gender identity and sexual orientation, and the unacceptability of homophobic and transphobic bullying.	Pupils have strategies for keeping safe online; knowing personal information including images of themselves and others can be shared without their permission.	Pupils have considered how to manage accidental exposure to explicit images, and upsetting online material, including who to talk about what they have seen.



Year 6

My feelings	My body	My relationships	My beliefs	My rights and responsibilities	Asking for help
Pupils can recognise how images in the media, including online do not always reflect reality, and can affect how people feel about themselves.	Pupils can explain what sexual intercourse is and how this leads to reproduction, using the correct terms to describe the male and female organs.	Pupils realise the nature and consequences of discrimination, including the use of prejudice based language.	Pupils know some cultural practices are against British law and universal human rights.	Pupils have an awareness that infections can be shared during sexual intercourse, and that a condom can help prevent this.	Pupils develop the confidence and skills to know when, who and how to ask for help independently, or with support.



Top tips for talking to your child...

Talking to your child about their feelings, relationships and changing body is important. Building good channels of communication throughout childhood can help your child to communicate with you as future issues of increasing seriousness arise.

Your child needs to know that it's OK to talk, and that you're happy to talk. They will learn this through your body language, tone and manner when you talk so try to behave as you would in any other topic of conversation.

Below are simple strategies to make talking about feelings, relationships and the body more comfortable:

- ✓ Start by talking about something that you both find comfortable, such as feelings and emotions.

- ✓ Ask your child what they think their friends know/think about the topic, as this provides a way to talk about your child's views indirectly.

- ✓ Avoid 'The Chat'. Talk about these topics little and often over everyday events like playing, drawing, whilst driving in the car or watching TV. This can help to normalise the conversation, easing uncomfortable feelings.

- ✓ Reading a story book containing relevant content is a helpful way to stimulate discussion with your child.

- ✓ Don't leave it too late. Start talking about relevant topics before you feel your child is approaching a level of curiosity about it, so you establish strong channels of communication in readiness.

- ✓ Be prepared to listen. Your child will want to have their voice heard without feeling judged. Feeling listened to will encourage your child to talk about issues in the future.

- ✓ If your child asks you a question you are not sure how to answer, don't panic! Let them know that you will answer it at another time, making sure you remember to. Sometimes a simple answer can provide a sufficient response.

- ✓ Try to listen calmly, even if what they say surprises or concerns you. Remember that it is good that they are comfortable to discuss issues with you. They need to trust that you will not respond negatively.

Make sure your child knows they can always talk to you anytime, about anything.

