

Use of Vocabulary in Primary Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

Why name sexual parts?

School is a place where all children should be able to develop good communication skills, confidence, positive body image and strong personal safety skills. RSE is one vehicle for enabling children to develop these skills in a safe and supportive environment. We know that having names for things is a way we can comfortably bring them into our experience and feel connection with them and control over them.

For many adults (teachers, parents, carers and governors included) the use of vocabulary to describe the human body and in particular the sexual parts of the human body is a sensitive topic. Many people personally feel uncomfortable using particular words and are anxious that teaching scientific words for sexual parts to children may challenge their innocence. However, this information seeks to illustrate how the sensitive, age-appropriate use of scientific vocabulary for sexual parts can contribute to positive body image, open discussion and questioning and the development of strong personal safety skills.

Which words should we use and when?

As a school staff, we have spent time discussing the vocabulary to use within each year group to enable children to correctly address the different sexual parts of the human body at their stage of development. This demonstrates the progression of this vocabulary from Reception to Year Six.

Vocabulary chosen to be used

	Key areas of learning	Feelings relationships	Body parts and processes	Other
Foundation	External body parts	Range of feelings words e.g. happy, pleased, calm, sad baby child girl boy	Size Shape range of simple external body parts e.g. hands, head, teeth, penis, vagina, bottom	range of action words e.g. run, jump growing up germs boy girl male female
KS1 Year 1/2	External body parts	same similar different unique special responsibility	birth death range of more specific external body parts e.g. stomach, chest	man woman teenager adult
KS2 Year 3/4	External body parts Differences between male and female First steps in understanding sexual reproduction	love dependent independent	breast nipple anus scrotum egg sperm	toiletries bacteria infection hygiene

KS2 Year 5/6	Puberty Sexual reproduction Internal body parts	commitment marriage stable relationship	Puberty Period Menstruation Cervix fallopian tube clitoris ovary/ ovum vulva vagina uterus/womb sperm/sperm duct urethra pubic hair voice breaking arousal erection sexual intercourse/sex ejaculate conception pregnancy ovulation	sanitary towel tampon body odour deodorant
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