



Teaching about consent – The Federation of Beckwithshaw, Kettlesing Felliscliffe and Ripley Endowed CE Primary Schools

We think it is extremely important that children understand the concept of CONSENT. At a basic level, consent means asking for and waiting to hear a 'yes'. School aged children are never too young to learn about the concept of seeking and giving permission. If a child wants to borrow something from another friend, they must get permission. If a child wants to hug their friend, they should check if their friend is OK with that first. Linking permission-seeking to physical contact is an important part of safeguarding children. They need to be taught about boundaries, saying no to unwanted touch and seeking help when they are worried or upset by anything they have been asked to do or by how they have been touched. The recent Relationships and Health Education statutory guidance for primary schools contains several objectives, we teach children about consent in line with these contexts - physical contact boundaries, privacy and body parts, listening and showing respect for others and developing and recognising healthy relationships (both on and offline). We also teach children how to seek help when they feel uncomfortable or worried. We ensure that children know that they have rights and responsibilities. We use the Jigsaw PHSE Scheme as well as NSPCC resources and external providers to support our teaching. Children are taught, in an age appropriate way, considering the mixed age-group classes within our schools, that only certain people need to see or touch certain parts of their body, at certain times. They also need to know who to speak to if they have any concerns about inappropriate touch and the importance of asking for help until they are heard. Learning about 'the underwear rule' (or 'PANTS' with the NSPCC) and private body parts is an essential part of safeguarding that forms part of our high-quality, whole school PSHE work. This is then supported by the NSPCC Speak out, Stay Safe scheme as children move into KS2. By the end of primary school, as stated in the statutory guidance for Relationships Education, all pupils should have covered objectives that will give them the tools they need to stay safe and speak out if they feel unsafe. Our children have the opportunity to use what they have learnt to become trained Digital Leaders and MHWB Ambassadors who support the other children in school.