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September 23

## BigTalk – Relationships and Sex Education – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

Dear Parents/Carers,

In response to our changing society and the impact of the Internet, Government have introduced statutory Relationship Education to Primary Schools. These lessons are not new and have been delivered at Stanford since the last guidance in 2000, however some of the content has now been updated to help keep children safer.

School is here to help; we are engaging the support of the specialist organisation BigTalk Education, who are a Social Enterprise recognised by national leading bodies and government. They work with 3 to 18 year olds and have been involved in delivering age appropriate education of this type for over 20 years, they also deliver training for Professionals, Parents and Carers.

Below is some information on the 'Growing Up Safe' programme that will be delivered to the Children by BigTalk Education, it reflects the Ofsted & SEF (the National Children's Bureau's Sex Education Forum) recommendations.

- **Age 3 Nursery** A fun learning environment where the children are taught the differences between boys and girls, naming body parts, correct scientific words, private areas of the body, good touches and bad touches.
- **Ages 4 to 8 (Reception, School Years 1, 2 & 3)** Re-enforces and checks what was covered in Nursery. Using specially designed child friendly resources at the end of this session they will be able to identify happy situations and those which may be risky (e.g. other children or adults taking improper photographs of them, inappropriate touches, exposure to unsuitable media etc.) plus who they can talk to if they are worried.
- **Ages 8 to 9 (School Year 4)** We cover different kinds of families, similarities and differences between boys and girls, the emotional and physical changes of growing up (puberty) how babies are made, then develop in the womb etc. (reproduction). Looking after our bodies and how to be safe and healthy are also discussed.
- **Ages 9 to 11 (School Years 5 & 6)** Reproduction and puberty are re-capped, the children are given the opportunity to ask questions. As well as additional questions on puberty, they will often want more details on how babies develop and are born. It is important that they know there is someone in school as well as at home if they want help, advice or more information etc. (Information at this stage is vital to protect them as they move onto Secondary School and to provide an alternative to Google etc).

All of the resources BigTalk Education use are age-appropriate and help keep children protected from unwanted touches, abuse and exposure to unsuitable images etc. Research now shows that children receiving this type of education are three times more likely to speak out if they are touched inappropriately etc.

#### Right to withdrawal

Parents are allowed to withdraw pupils only from any sex education elements. Pupils cannot be withdrawn from puberty or safeguarding lessons. The DfE statutory guidance is clear on why this guidance is in place and is driven by safeguarding. Understanding the scientific names for parts of the body is important in safeguarding children. Further information is also available on [www.bigtalkeducation.co.uk/parents](http://www.bigtalkeducation.co.uk/parents).

If you wish to withdraw your child from the sex education aspect of the Big Talk programme, please contact the school office by Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September, so that alternative provision can be arranged in advance of October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

In addition, "Bodies, Babies and Bellybuttons" is the BigTalk book which accompanies the Growing Up Safe programme. This is a great resource for parents and can be ordered online from [www.bigtalkeducation.co.uk](http://www.bigtalkeducation.co.uk) on our Resources page.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Middleton**  
**Curriculum Lead**