

22 May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Upcoming RHPD lesson

Over the course of the year your child has explored a range of topics in Personal Development from understanding how mental health can impact them to the risks of drugs and alcohol and reminders about healthy relationships. We also have to cover by law the topic of FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) as part of safeguarding, with the aim to protect all students from any form of abuse or exploitation. This lesson will be happening after half term.

FGM is illegal in the UK (also known as female circumcision, cutting or sunna) and while it is a practice that is carried out in some communities, it is a criminal offence to take a UK citizen abroad for the purpose of FGM (whether or not it is lawful in the country the girl is taken to). [According to the NHS](#) since April 2015 there have been 37,525 individual women and girls who have been impacted by FGM.

This lesson will build upon lessons already taught at primary school and here at The Weald on biological anatomy of the body and will be age appropriate. It is important that young people are able to use the correct language, keep safe and feel confident to ask questions and discuss in a mature and appropriate way.

The purpose of all Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education is: to prepare students for the physical and emotional changes of growing up; to give them the knowledge and skills to make informed and healthy choices; to build their confidence and skills to deal with situations they may encounter; to help them to stay safe and know where and how to ask for help if needed. We also see this as an important health and citizenship issue for all students in developing their understanding of discrimination and inequality.

As a school we believe that FGM is an important health education addition to the Year 9 Personal Development programme. Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. This can sometimes make an already confusing time as a teenager seem even more complicated. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. While we might believe we are a low risk area, having students be aware of the risks of this can help ensure that in later life they know how to support and help those who have had it done to them.

We are also keen to support parents and carers who may have concerns about FGM and put them in contact with agencies which will support them. Please see the list of support organisations below, should you wish to make contact directly.

For help and support having conversations about 'difficult' subjects that you need to have if you want to keep your children safe, and to help your own knowledge, these are some helpful starting points from UK charities: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

NSPCC: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk 0800 028 3550 or www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/

FORWARD: www.forwarduk.org.uk

Solace Women's Aid: <https://www.solacewomensaid.org/get-help/practical-advice/>

If you have any questions regarding FGM, please do not hesitate to contact Miss McInerney, our designated Senior Teacher for Child Protection. If you feel there are any sensitivities for your child around this subject please let us know.

Please be reminded that parents and carers have the right to request and excuse their child/children from Sex Education with the exception of those parts that are included in the statutory Science National Curriculum however there is no right to withdraw from Relationship and Health Education at secondary level and we believe the content of these subjects - such as family, friendship, safety (including online safety, FGM) and ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle - are important for all children to be taught. For more details on this, please see our school policy on the website or contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Everest
Head of Character and Culture