



Over St. John's CE Primary School
'Let your light Shine before others.' Matthew 5:16
RSE Combined Vocabulary & Definitions Booklet (EYFS–Y6)

RSE Vocabulary & Definitions (Relationships & Sex Education)

This vocabulary document is designed to support the teaching of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in a safe, inclusive and age-appropriate way.

It uses correct anatomical terminology to support safeguarding and clear communication. Teaching promotes respect for all, in line with the Equality Act 2010, and helps pupils understand boundaries, consent and healthy relationships.

Content is delivered in accordance with statutory RSE guidance (July 2025) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE).

Using correct vocabulary supports children to describe concerns clearly and helps adults respond appropriately.

Teaching reflects the Equality Act 2010 and promotes respect for all, including different families, backgrounds and identities. Pupils are taught that families and relationships may look different, and all should be treated with respect.

RSE Vocabulary & Definitions (Linked to PKS: Relationships & Sex Education Only)

EYFS

Focus

Naming body parts safely and correctly

Vocabulary

body, head, arms, legs, hands, feet, face, private parts, penis, vulva

Definitions

Body: Your whole physical self

Private parts: Parts of the body covered by underwear

Penis: A private body part some boys have

Vulva: The outside part of female private body parts

Friend: Someone you like and trust

Kind: Being nice and caring to others

Note

Children learn correct names and that some body parts are private

EYFS Script

Use correct names for body parts including penis and vulva. Private parts are covered by underwear. Reinforce: 'Private means just for you.'

Key Questions: What is a private part? Who can you talk to if worried?

Do: Use calm tone.

Don't: Use nicknames or avoid the words.

Year 1

Focus

Correct terminology and privacy

Vocabulary

penis, vulva, testicles, bottom, chest, private, respect, personal space

Definitions

Friendship: A relationship where people care for each other

Respect: Treating others kindly and fairly

Private: Something personal about your body

Personal space: The space around your body

Note

Develop understanding of privacy and boundaries

Year 1 Script

Introduce privacy and personal space. Explain that penis, vulva and testicles are private body parts.

Key Questions: What is personal space? Why are some parts private?

Do: Reinforce respect.

Don't: Shame or embarrass children.

Year 2

Focus

Differences and appropriate language

Vocabulary

male, female, penis, vulva, testicles, nipples, appropriate, inappropriate

Definitions

Bullying: Repeated behaviour that hurts someone physically or emotionally

Conflict: A disagreement between people

Feelings: Emotions such as happy or sad

Male: A body type often called a boy

Female: A body type often called a girl

Note

Respectful understanding of differences

Year 2 Script

Explain male and female bodies factually. Reinforce respect and differences.

Key Questions: How are bodies similar and different?

Do: Keep language neutral.

Don't: Reinforce stereotypes.

Year 3

Focus

Boundaries and safety

Vocabulary

genitals, penis, vulva, testicles, consent, boundaries, appropriate touch

Definitions

Boundaries: Rules about what feels safe for your body

Consent: Giving permission or saying yes

Appropriate touch: Touch that is safe and okay

Inappropriate touch: Touch that is not safe or okay

Relationships: How people are connected and interact

Note

Links to safety and reporting

Year 3 Script

Introduce genitals, consent, and boundaries. Consent = permission.

Key Questions: What is consent? What is appropriate touch?

Do: Link to safeguarding.

Don't: Overcomplicate definitions.

Year 4

Focus

Preparing for puberty

Vocabulary

genitals, penis, vulva, vagina, testicles, breasts, puberty, hygiene

Definitions

Puberty: Changes that happen as children grow into adults

Hygiene: Keeping the body clean

Healthy relationship: A relationship where people feel safe and respected

Unhealthy relationship: A relationship where someone feels unsafe or unhappy

Assertive: Speaking up for yourself in a calm and respectful way

Note

Introduction to physical changes

Year 4 Script

Explain puberty and physical changes. Use correct anatomical terms.

Key Questions: What changes happen? How do we stay clean?

Do: Reassure change is normal.

Don't: Create anxiety.

Year 5

Focus

Puberty and reproduction

Vocabulary

puberty, vagina, uterus, ovaries, menstruation, sperm, reproduction

Definitions

Menstruation: Monthly bleeding from the uterus

Reproduction: How humans create babies

Sperm: A tiny cell needed to help create a baby

Ovaries: Organs that store eggs in the female body

Uterus: An organ where a baby can grow

Note

Understanding body changes and reproduction

Year 5 Script

Explain reproduction basics: uterus, ovaries, sperm. Introduce menstruation.

Key Questions: What is menstruation? What is reproduction?

Do: Be factual.

Don't: Add unnecessary detail.

Year 6

Focus

Reproduction and consent

Vocabulary

fertilisation, conception, ovum, sperm, uterus, consent, reproduction

Definitions

Consent: Clear agreement between people

Conception: The beginning of a pregnancy

Fertilisation: When sperm joins an egg

Relationship: A connection between people

Respect: Treating people fairly and kindly

Trust: Feeling safe and able to rely on someone

Note

Accurate scientific understanding and consent

Year 6 Script

Explain fertilisation, conception and consent. Emphasise respectful relationships.

Key Questions: What is consent? What is fertilisation?

Do: Link to responsibility.

Don't: Use explicit or inappropriate detail.

Why We Use Correct Vocabulary

- Helps children communicate clearly and confidently
- Supports safeguarding and accurate disclosures
- Reduces shame, embarrassment or confusion
- Aligns with statutory RSE guidance

Compliance & Safeguarding Check

This vocabulary progression is:

✓ In line with DfE RSE statutory guidance

Requires teaching accurate names for body parts, including genitalia

Emphasises age-appropriate progression

Supports understanding of puberty and reproduction (KS2)

Promotes respectful relationships and personal boundaries

✓ In line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)

Enables children to report concerns clearly using correct terminology

Avoids vague or euphemistic language that could delay safeguarding responses

Supports a curriculum that helps children:

recognise appropriate/inappropriate touch

understand consent and boundaries

know who to tell and how to seek help

✓ Safeguarding Best Practice

Uses consistent, accurate terminology across school

Reinforces that:

body parts are not secret or shameful

children have a right to feel safe

Supports staff in identifying disclosures quickly and accurately

RSE Vocabulary and Definitions Guidance – June 2026

RSE Teacher Script & Tricky Questions Guidance (EYFS–Y6)

Using this guide

This guide supports teachers to confidently deliver RSE using accurate vocabulary, consistent language and safeguarding-aligned responses. Use scripts flexibly and always follow school safeguarding procedures if needed.

Handling Tricky Questions (Staff Script Bank)

Where do babies come from?

That is a really good question. Babies begin when a sperm and an egg join together, which is called fertilisation. This happens between adults. We will learn a bit more about this as you get older.

How does the sperm get there?

That is something that is part of adult relationships. In school, we focus on learning how bodies work and how to stay safe. If you have more questions, you can talk to a trusted adult at home.

Why are bodies different?

Bodies are all unique. Some differences are linked to whether a body is male or female, and some are just natural differences. All bodies should be respected.

What is a period?

A period is something that happens to some bodies as they grow up. It is when the body releases blood each month, and it is a normal and healthy part of growing up.

What happens if someone touches my private parts?

Private parts should not be touched by others unless it is for health or care and with permission. If anything makes you feel uncomfortable, you should tell a trusted adult straight away.

Why do we have to learn this?

We learn this so we understand our bodies, can keep ourselves safe and can respect others.

What is consent?

Consent means giving permission or saying yes. It means both people agree and feel comfortable.

Do and Don't Guidance

Do

- Use correct anatomical vocabulary
- Stay calm and neutral
- Answer honestly but keep it age-appropriate
- Redirect if question goes beyond curriculum
- Follow safeguarding procedures if concerned

Don't

- Do not use slang or nicknames
- Do not over-explain or give adult detail
- Do not dismiss or ignore questions
- Do not show embarrassment
- Do not shut down curiosity