



MAIDEN ERLEGH

CHILTERN EDGE

Headteacher: Briony Bowers
MA, NPQH

- Reades Lane, Sonning Common, RG4 9LN
- 0118 972 1500
- meceoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org
- www.maidenerleghchilternedge.co.uk
- @MEChilternEdge

23 May 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

PSHE lessons

As part of their personal, social, health and economic (Personal Development) education lessons, Year 7 take part in a series of sex and relationship education (SRE) lessons. These focus mainly on explaining and preparing pupils for the physical and emotional changes associated with puberty. They also consider the changing nature of a range of relationships, including friendship, family relationships and intimate relationships.

The purpose of SRE at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge is: to prepare pupils 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. At times, carefully chosen external visitors and speakers may contribute to the programme. In these cases, lesson content will be agreed in advance and visitors will always be supervised by a member of school staff.

As part of this year's SRE, pupils will have a lesson which teaches about female genital mutilation (FGM) and breast ironing. They will be taught that FGM and breast ironing are illegal in the UK and that it is also 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). This will be taught in an age-appropriate way in the context of knowing about bodily changes during puberty, being able to use the correct language, keeping safe and feeling confident to ask questions and discuss in a mature and appropriate way.

Teaching about FGM is compulsory within secondary school. If you would like further information regarding this statutory requirement, we would encourage you to read this article written by the PSHE Association: [What schools need to know about FGM \(pshe-association.org.uk\)](https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/what-schools-need-to-know-about-fgm)

We believe that this will be an important addition to the Year 7 SRE programme. If you have concerns or would like to discuss the matter further, please email Miss Cheeseman – Head of Year 7 and Coordinator of PSHE.

Yours sincerely

Miss Cheeseman
Head of Year 7



Aim High



Be Inclusive



Work Together