

Personal, Social Health and Economic Education (PHSE) at Aughton St Michael's C. of E. Primary School and the 1 Decision Programme

You may or may not be aware of recent media coverage which makes suggestions that schools may be teaching children inappropriate content within the new statutory areas of health and relationships, particularly regarding gender identity. To alleviate any fears, we want to assure you that at Aughton St Michael's, we have carefully considered our chosen resources and are using reliable, kitemarked, and quality assured content from 1decision. 1decision has been established for twelve years and currently supports schools across the country and worldwide.

Does 1decision Include Content on Gender?

We are all living in an increasingly diverse society and today's children are likely to have experiences of LGBTQ+ within their own families, friends, and through what they see on social media. To reflect this, as part of the statutory guidance, all schools, primary and secondary, must ensure that the 'needs of all pupils are appropriately met, and that all pupils understand the importance of equality and respect.' This includes 'teaching about different families, which can include for example: single parent families, LGBT parents and carers, families headed by grandparents, adoptive parents, foster parent/carers amongst other structures.'

Within the kitemarked 1decision resources these topics have been subtly integrated, giving schools the option to build on these conversations if necessary. The need to build on conversations may arise when guided by pupils' conversations.

Gender identity is not a statutory expectation. However, schools can decide whether it is appropriate or necessary to enhance or adapt resources in consideration of their cohort.

How Does 1decision Subtly Integrate These Topics?

Throughout the 1decision resources children are encouraged to understand how special and unique they each are and how we should respect one another regardless of difference.

Within the puberty (statutory) and the conception (sex education – not statutory) topics there are subtle references to different types of families and different ways families can conceive a child. Images will include same sex couples and references to surrogacy, and IVF treatment for example. The topics do not cover these areas in-depth. 1decision does not refer to a list of different gender identities, and does not highlight that a child may have been born into a different body to their assigned sex at birth. An additional topic within the 1decision resources is 'Inclusion & Acceptance' (suggested at year 5). Within this topic, pupils will take a closer look at different types of families, including a same sex couple whose child is judged within their school setting. This topic encourages children to be more accepting of others.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via the Office.

Yours faithfully

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