



Date: Tuesday 3rd February 2025

Ref: Relationships and Health Education Key Decisions

Dear Parents / Carers,

In December, we invited you to take part in a consultation to gain thoughts and opinions regarding our RHE (Relationship and Health Education) curriculum. This was to help us with making some key decisions regarding the content of what we teach and for some topics, when to teach them. Thank you to those of you who responded and took part in the consultation.

The Key decisions that we consulted on are shown below along with the decision that has been made as a school, taking into account the responses of the consultation with parents and carers.

Key Decisions:

There are seven Key Decisions that individual schools are advised to make in relation to Ten:Ten – Life to the Full Plus, which is the education programme we use to facilitate the teaching and learning of our RHE curriculum.

Key Decision #1: Genitalia

In Key Stage One, a decision must be made about whether to introduce names of genitalia to Years 1 and 2.

At St Alban's CVA we have made the decision to teach the vocabulary for Genitalia to years 1 and 2. This is covered in the session called 'Girls and Boys'.

Key Decision #2: Puberty

Puberty is part of the statutory Health Education and Science Curriculum for Key Stage 2. The decision to be made is when it is considered to be the best time to teach children about puberty and the changes to their bodies. Ten:Ten recommends and provides sessions with this content for Year 4 children.

At St Alban's CVA, we have made the decision to teach Puberty at Year 4.

Key Decision #3: Life Cycles

In Year 4, there is a session called Life Cycles which children learn about the human reproductive system. The session does not discuss sexual intercourse. This teaching is given in the context of being created, chosen and loved by God. Teaching about the reproductive system is not explicitly requested as part of the statutory RSHE curriculum. The DFE guidance says that primary schools *"should ensure that both boys and girls are prepared for the changes that adolescence brings – drawing on knowledge of the human life cycle set out in the national curriculum for science - how a baby is conceived and born."*

The decision is to consider when the best time to teach this content would be.

At St Alban's CVA, we have made the decision to wait until year 5 and 6 to teach about the human reproductive system.



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Key Decision #4: Talking About Pornography

One of the sessions in Years 5 and 6, 'Seeing Stuff Online', addresses the risks that children face from seeing explicit images and videos online. This is very much a lesson about 'online safety' and therefore falls under the statutory 'Keeping Children Safe in Education'. However, it is currently under debate as to whether it is also considered to be part of the non-statutory Sex Education curriculum.

At St Alban's CVA, we have made the decision to teach this session to Year 5 and 6 children.

Key Decision #5: Talking About Sex

In Year 5 and 6 there is a session called 'Making Babies Part 2' which answers the question: 'Where do babies come from?' Teaching about sexual intercourse to primary school children is not part of the statutory curriculum, however, it is a natural progression of the conversation around the scientific understanding and teaching of how babies are made (sperm and egg). Ten Ten have created the session with delicacy and care in an age-appropriate way on love, intimacy and marriage.

At St Alban's CVA we have made the decision to teach this session to Year 5 and 6 children.

Key Decision #6: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The decision is whether to teach about Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Although the duty to teach about FGM is not statutory for primary schools, it can optionally be applied following consultation with parents and governors. The Ten Ten programme offers schools the opportunity to include teaching on FGM in an age appropriate way within various sessions from Year 1 to Year 6.

At St Alban's we have made the decision not to teach this element due to the current contextual nature of the school.

Key Decision #7: Discussing Protected Characteristics concerning sex

Key Decision #7a

The final area concerning a Key Decision is linked to a session called 'Build Others Up'. At the beginning of the session, children are invited to watch the film 'Imagine a world...' which introduces children to the terms *fairness, bullying, prejudice, and discrimination*, and the characteristics of *age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, and religion or belief*.

The protected characteristics of sex, sexual orientation and gender reassignment are **not** explicitly named within the film.

Within the same session, children are presented with a number of scenarios to discuss and sort that concern discrimination / bullying of the protected characteristics of sex and/or sexual orientation. The key decision for 7a is whether to include the activity with this element of sexual orientation within the session.

At St Alban's CVA, we have made the decision to teach this element within the session 'Build Others Up' with Year 5 and 6 children.



Key Decision 7b, 7c and 7d relate to three Classroom Short videos

Key Decision #7b

'Recognise'- In this film, one aspect is to learn that homophobia is being prejudiced against someone because they are attracted to someone of the same sex. They hear that, "The other children at school are bullying Felix because he has two Dads who are in a same-sex partnership."

Key Decision #7c

'Attraction' – This video explores what attraction is and that someone can be attracted to someone of the same or the opposite sex.

Key Decision #7c

'Stereotypes' This video explores the concept of gender stereotypes and how these stereotypes might make us feel. Clarity on gender identity being separate from sexual orientation will be made. Children will be encouraged to celebrate God's creation by valuing the uniqueness of each and every person.

The decision for 7b,7c and 7d is whether to include these short videos within our curriculum.

At St Alban's CVA, we have made the decision to use these videos with Year 5 and 6 children.

Teaching Sex Education is not compulsory in primary schools in England. However, Relationships Education, Health Education and the Science Curriculum are compulsory. Some primary schools may choose to teach aspects of 'Sex Education'. This is a decision for schools to make in consultation with their parents. As it is not compulsory in primary schools, parents have the right to withdraw their child from any sessions that cover aspects of Sex Education. **Parents are expected to clearly communicate this to the appropriate person at school if they wish to withdraw their child from Sex Education sessions. Please ensure you speak to either Mrs Johnson, Mrs James or Mr Brogan regarding this.**

We will continue to inform you of the upcoming sessions that your child will be taking part in by sending the links to the parent portal of the specific sessions via Class Dojo.

More detailed information about the content of our RHE curriculum and the Key Decisions can be found in the Parent Consultation Tool. This was sent out at the same time as the consultation questionnaire in October. If you wish to review this tool again, the login details and how to access it have been included below. The information on the Key Decisions can be found in section 4 of the Consultation Tool.

Access the Parent Consultation Tool here:

www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-consultation-primary

You will need the following login credentials for our school:

Username: **st-albans-de21**

Password: **amber-nutmeg**



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As expressed in previous communication, Ten Ten is an award-winning Catholic Educational Organisation that is well-respected and very experienced in this field of work. It continues to review and develop the resources available and the Life to the Full Plus programme that we use has been approved by our diocese. It aims to be age-appropriate whilst at the same time supporting parents and schools in nurturing their children in the most healthy way, rooted in the foundation that they are a child of God: one who is created, chosen and loved by God.

If there is anything within this letter that you wish to discuss, please contact Mrs Johnson, Mrs James or myself and we will be happy to talk to you.

With best wishes,

Mr T Brogan
Headteacher