



Case Study

Larwood Primary School



Larwood School, part of Larwood Academy Trust, is a primary day special school for children with social, emotional and mental health-related issues. All pupils who attend the Stevenage-based school have an Educational Health Care Plan. Typically they have an autistic spectrum condition and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) diagnosed as part of their special educational needs.

In its teaching of PSHE, which supports the School's commitment to maximising all pupils "educational, emotional and social growth", Larwood School has been using 1decision since 2017. "PSHE is a hugely important part of our curriculum – as a special school we are working with children who may not be as emotionally advanced as their years indicate, but equally we have children who have been exposed to advanced issues at a very early age – so there is often a mismatched profile, and a fine line to tread which requires sensitivity," said the School's Assistant Headteacher Bianca Osobu. "We are constantly working with children and their families on these issues, and use 1decision to support both our teaching in the classroom and also outside of the classroom in our assemblies."

Bianca highlighted the impact that the programme has made to the School's PSHE provision. "Before 1decision our PSHE materials were dry and did not explicitly tackle the issues we needed to," she said. "We have moved from a position where the resources we used previously were old, stale and I felt like I was repeating things, to a programme which has currency, freshness and is very easy to implement. From a teacher's perspective it enables the teaching of issues which can be difficult or uncomfortable, for example body development and menstruation which we use as part of our teaching of sex education, and for this to be done in a safe way. Even if you are not an expert in the subject matter or covering PPA time anyone can pick up 1decision and run with it."

1decision's commitment to the subject matter, and its delivery of engaging video content, has also made its mark on the School's 80 pupils. "The videos that are the most distinctive aspect of 1decision give us the opportunity to work with the children on making good choices, and not being afraid of making the wrong choice in a safe environment, which they learn from," Bianca said. "The accompanying activity workbooks are bright and a lovely material for the children to work with. The 1decision team are completely on the case and, as a senior leader who oversees the curriculum and safeguarding/child protection, this is very reassuring."

Having used 1decision for the past two years, Bianca said the School is in a stronger position to deliver the required statutory curriculum for Relationships Education and Health Education from September 2020. "The age-appropriate materials created by 1decision have informed the development of our curriculum to date and will continue to do so as we prepare for the statutory requirements," she explained.

"1decision has the right balance of inclusivity which is reflective of pupils' families or families they know – the changes mean we need to make sure children know about inclusivity of culture, religion and orientation, but the most important thing is the right balance. Larwood teachers have enjoyed using 1decision and it has made it much easier for them to deliver the content."

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