5th January 2022

Year 8 Relevance Project

We will be participating in the National Centre for Computing Education's Relevance Project, in our Year 8 IT lessons. They have provided the attached information regarding this project.

Parental Consent

If you are happy for your child to take part in the project, you do not have to do anything, as they will be automatically included in the project.

If you are **not** happy for your child to take part in the project, please leave a note in your child's homework diary for the attention of their IT teacher. Alternatively you can email the relevant Pastoral House Queries inbox marking the email FAO your child's IT teacher. This must be done no later than **Monday 10th January 2022.**

St Bernadette House	s_stbqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk
St Catherine Laboure House	s_stclqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk
St John Fisher House	s_stjfqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk
St Therese House	s_sttqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk

Yours Sincerely,

Mr E Callaghan
Head of Computer Science

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Relevance project (Year 8): Parent/carer information

What is the Relevance project?

The Raspberry Pi Foundation is working within the [National Centre for Computing Education](#) on a project funded by the Department for Education. Together, we are exploring ways of engaging more female pupils in computing in order to increase the number of girls who select computer science at GCSE and A level. It has been suggested that addressing this issue early in a child's education is important. In this project, we are aiming to trial some resources that link computing to real-world problems to increase girls' engagement in lessons.

How does this relate to my child?

Your child's school has agreed to participate in our project. This means that your child will be involved in the project unless you choose to opt out on their behalf. If you are happy for your child to take part in the project, you do not have to do anything, and they will be automatically included in the project.

What will my child do in the project?

The project will run over a 12-week period between January and April 2022. Your child will participate in computing lessons as usual. As part of the project, all pupils will be asked to complete a short survey at the beginning and end of the 12-week period. Although the research relates to girls' engagement, the teaching approach and resources will be used with both girls and boys. This project has been designed accounting for the current context that schools face during the global pandemic. All lessons will be conducted in line with the school's health and safety policies.

What questions will my child answer in the survey?

Before and after the 12-week project, your child will fill in a survey about their attitudes towards computing. The survey questions will ask about their attitudes and confidence, rather than more personal information such as their marks. For example, questions might include 'Are you good with computers?' and not 'What marks do you get?'. As part of the survey, we will collect your child's name, date of birth, and gender. This is so that we can compare the surveys at the start and end of the project to see if the intervention has made a difference to their attitudes towards computing.

What will happen to my child's data?

We will be using legitimate interests as the lawful basis for processing your child's data. All data collected in this project will be stored in line with the National Centre for Computing

Education's [Privacy Policy](). The Department for Education will be data controller of personal data of pupils obtained from schools. They will share personal data with trusted processors (such as the evaluation team, partners, transcribers, and research assistants) solely for the purposes of proper delivery, management, and evaluation of the project. The Behavioural Insights Team will be data controllers for survey data collected from pupils and any qualitative data collected through interviews with teachers and/or pupils.

All parties barring the evaluation team will securely delete all personal data within 6 months of project completion. The Behavioural Insights Team will retain the data until June 2023 to permit further analysis.

Your child's data will be treated with the strictest confidence and will be transferred securely and saved in secure locations only accessible by the project team in line with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. We will not use children's or schools' names in any report or reports arising from this project. If you have any queries about how your child's data will be handled, please contact the Behavioural Insights Team Data Protection Officer at [dpo@bi.team](), or the National Centre for Computing Education Data Protection Officer at [datasecurity@stem.org.uk]().

What if I don't want my child to take part in the research?
Your child's participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you can opt out of having any data collected about your child as part of the project. Your child will still participate in all computing lessons as usual, but no data about them will be collected or stored. If you wish to opt out of the project, please advise your child's school by **the 10th January when the project begins.**

Questions
If you have any questions, please contact Katharine Childs (our Project Coordinator) at [genderresearch@raspberrypi.org]().