

School Body Positive Policy



We recommend that all schools consult with their community and set a policy about sex and gender, to avoid unnecessary conflict and potential litigation.

The policy should:

- Take into account the right (under the Human Rights Act) for parents, students and staff both to hold and not to hold a belief; the right to freedom of expression; and the right of parents to make decisions on behalf of their children.
- Strive to provide a body positive environment for both boys and girls. There is no right or wrong way to be a boy or girl.
- Support the rights of individuals to express themselves as they wish and to be free from unlawful discrimination, bullying or harassment.
- Confirm that the school does not reinforce harmful stereotypes, for instance by affirming that children might be a different sex based on their personality, interests, or the clothes they prefer to wear.
- Confirm that staff will not suggest to a child that their non-conformity to sex role stereotypes means that either their personality or their body is wrong and in need of changing, and all staff will treat individual students with sympathy and care.
- Confirm that it is not the role of the school to influence identity formation. Social transition is a powerful psychotherapeutic intervention and should not be carried out without clinical supervision. Refer to [A Childhood is not Reversible](#) (Transgender Trend), [Brief Guidance for Schools](#) (Genspect) and [Whose Pronouns Are They](#) (partners for Ethical Care) for evidence to support the school's policy.
- State that the school will consider the needs of all students when determining the appropriate support for those students with diagnosed gender dysphoria.
- Confirm that the school will not teach as fact, a belief in gender identities or sex being on a spectrum. The school will teach that mammals have two sexes – male and female – but only humans have gender which is the particular way that males and females are expected to behave according to their culture and time. It is not possible for a person to change 'sex' but a person can change their 'gendered' behaviour. Gendered behaviour does not determine whether you are a girl or a boy. That is determined by your biology.
- State that those who believe they have a 'gender identity' that differs from their sex will be treated with respect, as is the case with all diverse beliefs within the community. Treating a belief with respect does not require agreement with the belief.
- Confirm that parents will be consulted about relationship and sexuality education and discussion on these topics will be in discrete lessons only, allowing parents to withdraw their children, if they so wish.

- State that on school camps, students will sleep in dormitories of the same sex unless written permission has been gained from the parents of a few close friends, who know the sex of each child, for them to share a room. All adults on school camps will sleep in quarters separate from children.