

Petitioner submission of 13 November 2023

PE2043/B: Change the way gender theory is presented in schools

Our children are being taught an ideology that I am deeply concerned about. Our children are being taught something that is NOT mandatory in primary school.

I would like to briefly mention that whilst I believe children should be taught about sex education, I find the current RSHP to be age inappropriate and extremely unnecessarily graphic. I agree with many others, that in its current form, the sex education part of the RSHP is not fit for purpose and is adversely affecting our children.

Some of the people involved in the making of the Scottish RSHP are very biased. Our government took advice from biased sources and people with nefarious and dubious backgrounds. One Dr the SNP took advice from wants to "break down the barrier between sexuality and childhood" He does this by quoting advocates of bringing sexuality into childhood and not criticising their views, before quoting Michel Foucault's complaint that "age of consent laws are a result of the artificial and undesirable barrier between childhood and sexuality". This Dr, Dr Morrison, was an advisor on the sex education lessons.

I am not here to discuss the over sexualised part though. I want to draw attention to the gender ideology part of the curriculum.

As Jennifer Bilek says

"The word transgenderism is not fit for communication. It does not define anything clearly, but rather obscures the industry manifested in its name. It's an umbrella term with no borders, under which sit too many conflicting ideas, allowing its definitional goalposts to move whenever anyone critiques its ideology and the markets formed around it."

Gender ideology is in direct conflict with almost every safeguarding issue. We have a duty to protect our children from dangerous adult agendas and we should not be promoting this ideology as fact. An ideology which heralds from terrible beginnings with John Money and the tragedy of the Reimer Family.

The impact of teaching gender ideology in schools has been catastrophic for many families. It has been afforded a gilded platform and due to lobby groups such as Stonewall and LGBT Youth Scotland, schools have been told they must celebrate and affirm trans ideation.

Stonewall stands accused of campaigning against women's rights as defined in the Equality Act, and of bullying those with whom it disagrees, out of jobs.

LGBT Youth Scotland employed a co-ordinator who is in jail for running Scotland's biggest paedophile ring using his organisation as cover. The organisation are still under investigation for inappropriate behaviour towards young boys. Some of those same staff from that time, still work there. The man involved with the recent case points out that:

"LGBT Youth Scotland provide opportunities for young people ages 13-25 and their peers to meet'

Why is the allowed? This is a basic safeguarding failure"

Schools should not be taking advice from these organisations.

Additionally due to the scandal regarding a trustee of the charity Mermaids resigning after reports he spoke at a conference organised by a group that promotes support for paedophiles and the dreadful issues there, plus the serious medical scandal at Tavistock, the gender clinic in London, in which ideological concerns took priority over clinical practice and the issues with Sandyford the clinic in Glasgow, an independent review was triggered carried out by Dr Hilary Cass. Again, the primary schools in Scotland have a choice to NOT teach any of it. It is NOT mandatory.

The Cass Review states that social transition is not a neutral act, it locks the child in a fixed state and could possibly lead to unnecessary medical and surgical consequences. Adults should not be coercing children through the language used in the RSHP to think that they can be the opposite sex. Using compelled pronouns is not grounded in reality and it is not properly safeguarding children.

There is no proper scientific evidence to show that children can be born in the wrong body and to tell children that to fully be yourself you need to change yourself so wholly is abhorrent. Dysphoria exists but presenting to a child that changing sex will help, is an affirmation only route. This is a dangerous path. Data now shows that suicidal ideation increases after

transition. Evidence also shows there is no such thing as a trans brain and it is not innate.

As Dr Jenny Cunningham states

"The Scottish government's sex education curriculum in primary schools exposes children as young as age 6–7 to the language of gender identity: transgender, cisgender (i.e., not trans-identifying), Most children will only have developed a stable self-identity as a boy or girl at age 4–6. Therefore, introducing this kind of gender terminology can be extremely confusing for children."

The curriculum states that some people can sometimes not feel like the sex they were assigned and tells children they can be any boy or girl they want to be.

This is damaging to children, especially vulnerable ones with comorbidities such as autism. Children with autism experience puberty in a different and often distressing way, sensory issues can make the changes very difficult to deal with. For the school to then tell these children that their uncomfortable difficult puberty feelings are because maybe they are in the wrong body is a serious safeguarding issue.

Did you know that in the UK there was a 4000% increase in referrals to GIDS, of them 76% were girls and 48% of them had autism? Between 8-10% of children and adolescents seen at gender clinics meet the diagnostic criteria for autism. A further 20% had autistic traits such as communication skills or intense focus and attention to detail.

There are other comorbidities such as adhd, depression, sexual assault survivor, eating disorders, OCD and many others which must be taken into account before thinking about socially transitioning a child. Studies suggest that children who claim a transgender identity and undergo early social transition rarely change their minds, at least into their early teen years. If left alone over 80% of these children will desist, meaning they will revert to their biological sex.

Furthermore, telling children that sex is assigned at birth is disingenuous and confusing. Mothers already know from 10wks what sex their baby is going to be, bar chromosomal abnormalities, and it's insulting and ludicrous to tell children that people don't know so that when their baby is born they get to decide. Like some kind of genie computer game! They teach sex is arbitrarily assigned at birth but apparently gender identity is fixed in the womb. It makes no sense.

The government says that they are teaching this because they want to teach inclusion. Guess what - kids ARE naturally inclusive. They play with any other kids irrespective of sex, gender, colour, religion, disability - unless they have been shown otherwise. Kids just want to play. Let them be kids.

RSHP information must be balanced with facts not feelings. Gender ideology is based in queer theory which actively works to dismantle the family unit whilst blurring personal boundaries and lowering sexual boundaries.

Parents of children caught up in this are sometimes written off as transphobic fundamentalists no matter how supportive and loving we try to be. We often find that our voices are not as valued as parents of no particular faith. Within the private and secret groups online, we have subgroups where we turn to each other to encourage our faith and support each other through this trans nightmare.

Safe Schools Alliance has recently sent a letter to the Director for Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom at the Office for Students, to raise concerns relating to the influence of experimental academic discourse on public policy.

Although it is too late for my children and thousands of families across the UK, I and many, many others believe it is inappropriate for our children to be learning about this adult agenda and I once again implore the government and society to remove this ideological pseudoscience propaganda from schools and replace it with some semblance of reality.