

Briefing on LGBT Content in Relationships Education Curriculum

Background

A [parliamentary petition](#) to Remove LGBT content from the Relationships Education curriculum received nearly 250,000 signatures and is set to be debated in parliament on **Monday 18 March 2024**. The Petitions Committee has [written to the Secretary of State for Education](#) requesting that draft guidance on the RSHE curriculum which was promised last year be published ahead of this debate.

The government refused to publish the recommendations of an [independent expert panel](#) on age appropriateness within relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) last year.¹ Nearly 50 Conservative MPs had written to the Prime Minister urging him to launch the independent inquiry following widespread evidence of “age inappropriate” material in schools.

Examples of inappropriate LGBT education

Christian parents [Calvin and Nicola Watts](#) were shocked to find that their 8-year-old child and classmates had been **taught that they may have been born in the wrong body**. A [video was shown in class](#) of the book *It feels good to be yourself* being read. The book states: “When you were born you couldn’t tell people who you were or how you felt. They looked at you and made a guess. Maybe they got it right, maybe they got it wrong.”

The [New Social Covenant report](#) on what is being taught in RSE found evidence of lessons on **masturbation in primary schools**.² It also found evidence of promotion of **anal sex, group sex, choking, explicit imagery, surrogacy, kink, and BDSM** in RSE lessons. Also, evidence of teaching: “Contrary to historical Western beliefs, gender is not binary.” From Christian Concern’s own work, we are aware of schools who have categorised masturbation as part of relationships education, thus making it mandatory for all students to learn about it as part of puberty.

Christian teacher [Glawdys Leger](#) was **sacked** for refusing to teach extreme LGBT ideology in a secondary school. The material introduced children to gender identities such as pansexual, asexual, intersex, and transgender, and used a Stonewall promoted film to promote LGBT ideology, including suggesting that the Biblical characters King David and Jonathan, as well as Ruth and Naomi, were in homosexual relationships.

Christian parent [Izzy Montague’s](#) 4-year-old son was **required to participate in a mandatory Pride Parade** to celebrate Pride Month. A photo of a year-1 pupil was posted on the school’s website with an image she had written which read: “I have a dreem if bois cood go to the saim toilet as gerls.” [Sic]

¹ <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/09/10/sex-education-gilian-keegan-report-not-published-dfe/>

² *What is being taught in Relationships and Sex Education in our schools?*, New Social Covenant report 2023. <https://www.newsocialcovenant.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/nscu-education-2023-v1.pdf>

Then ten-year-old pupil [Kaysey](#) said that LGBT had permeated every area of school life. One lesson in year 4 included a **video of an 11-year-old undergoing surgery** in an attempt to transition from a boy to a girl.

School chaplain [Rev Dr Bernard Randall](#) was **sacked** after preaching a sermon in chapel in which he said that pupils were free to make up their own minds about LGBT ideology. The school had welcomed campaign group *Educate and Celebrate* into the school which got staff to chant ‘smash heteronormativity’ in a staff training session.

School pastoral assistant [Kristie Higgs](#) was **sacked** for sharing concerns on Facebook about the LGBT content of primary school materials from the ‘No Outsiders’ books which promote transgender ideology. *No Outsiders* has attracted a lot of criticism for being age-inappropriate transgender indoctrination.³

The Policy Exchange report [Asleep at the Wheel](#) found evidence that schools are teaching pupils that it is **offensive to refer to people as ‘biologically male/female’**. Schools are teaching children to define at least five gender identities. 25% of secondary schools are teaching that some people or children ‘may be born in the wrong body’. 72% of schools are teaching that people have a gender identity that may be different from their biological sex. Four in ten secondary schools operate policies of gender self-identification. 30% of schools are teaching that a person who self-identifies as a man or a woman should be treated as such in all circumstances, even if this does not match their biological sex.

Reasons LGBT content should be removed from the Relationships Education Curriculum

The promotion of LGBT ideology **goes against the values of many parents**. This includes Christians, Jews, Muslims and those of other faiths or none. Parents are looking for education, not indoctrination in contested ideologies. Promoting LGBT ideology is a breach of trust with parents. Legally, schools are required to ensure that RSE education has regard to “the religious background of the pupils.”⁴ Pupils should be educated “in accordance with the wishes of parents” according to the Education Act 1996.⁵ Parents have the right to ensure that their “religious and philosophical beliefs are respected during their children’s education” according to Protocol 1, Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights.⁶ The public sector equality duty requires material to promote good relations between those with different protected characteristics, meaning that the school must have due regard not to cause offence or discord to parents of a faith background.⁷

The government does **not define what is ‘age appropriate’** and LGBT content in schools is frequently regarded as highly inappropriate for children to be exposed to (e.g. masturbation, ‘born in the wrong body’, anal sex, explicit images).⁸ Nor does the Department for Education’s RSE guidance provide any limit to how much LGBT content can be introduced to pupils or the manner that that material is taught.

The promotion of LGBT ideology in schools is widely seen as **sexualising young children** before they are mature enough to engage with such issues. Primary school children are not developed sexually and should be allowed to retain their innocence in such matters. Children deserve to be children.

³ <https://www.transgendertrend.com/no-outsiders-queering-primary-classroom/>

⁴ Children and Social Welfare Act 2017 (Section 34 (3))

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/16/section/34/enacted>

⁵ Education Act 1996 (Section 9) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/9>

⁶ <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/human-rights/human-rights-act/article-2-first-protocol-right-education>

⁷ Equality Act 2010 (Section 149 (1)) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>

⁸ The requirement to be age appropriate is also from the Children and Social Welfare Act 2017 (Section 34 (3)).

LGBT ideology contains highly contested and political claims. It should not be taught as fact or without alternative views being presented. The **Education Act 1996 forbids partisan teaching of ideology** in schools,⁹ yet schools are promoting LGBT ideology uncritically.¹⁰

The idea that some people are ‘born in the wrong body’ is an **unscientific belief** which should never be taught as fact in schools.

Sexualising children by exposing them to LGBT ideology poses a **safeguarding risk** as children may seek to act out sexual activities which they have been taught or exposed to. Furthermore, there is a strong link between mental health and gender distress which means that teaching children with mental health issues LGBT ideology poses a particular safeguarding risk. The recent statistics evidence astronomical increases in children identifying as transgender and bisexual since the introduction of these themes in education.

Marriage between a man and a woman is the foundation of society and the best way for children to be brought up.¹¹ **Marriage and family values should be taught** to children to encourage them to aspire to marriage and having a family.

It is known that sexual relationships prior to marriage decrease the chances of forming long-term stable relationships which benefit society.¹² Children should be taught to **save sexual relationship for marriage** since this is best for them and society.

⁹ Education Act 1996, Sections 406 and 407. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/407>

¹⁰ Material cannot indoctrinate as to sensitive moral issues according to this ruling in the European Court of Human Rights: Kjeldsen, Busk Madsen and Pedersen v Denmark, Judgment, Merits, App No 5095/71 (A/23), [1976] ECHR 6, IHRL 15 (ECHR 1976), 7th December 1976, [ECtHR] <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/fre#%7B%22itemid%22:%5B%22001-57509%22%7D>

¹¹ www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CSJJ8372-Family-structure-Report-200807.pdf
<https://ifstudies.org/blog/children-first-why-family-structure-and-stability-matter-for-children>
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1079374.pdf>

¹² <https://wheatley.byu.edu/the-myth-of-sexual-experience>
<https://ifstudies.org/blog/does-sexual-history-affect-marital-happiness>