



# ***LGBT+ Inclusive Education***

## ***LGBT+ children and young people today***

Whilst rights and attitudes towards LGBT+ people have come a long way in the UK, there is still progress that needs to be made. LGBT+ people are still growing up in challenging and often hostile environments.

The harsh reality for young LGBT+ people is that nearly half - including 64 per cent of trans pupils - are bullied for being LGBT+ in Britain's schools.

## ***What is LGBT+ inclusive education?***

LGBT+ inclusive education is the teaching of LGBT+ identities and issues across the curriculum, particularly in Relationships Education (primary school) and Relationships and Sex Education (secondary school).

An LGBT+ inclusive curriculum is essential in supporting children and young people to be able to understand, accept and love their own identities, and the identities of others.

## ***What do I need to know?***

Schools have legal duties not to discriminate against pupils who are LGBT+, and who have LGBT+ parents and carers.

There has been some small but vocal campaigning by some parents and carers to oppose LGBT+ inclusive RSE.



# **LGBT+ Inclusive Education: The facts**

***There are number of myths that have arisen in relation to LGBT+ inclusive education and we want to give you the information to be able to dispel them.***

## ***Myth “Parents are going to be able to withdraw their children from Relationships Education classes”***

Buster: This is not true - under new regulations, parents and carers will not be able to withdraw their child from Relationships Education. This is because receiving relationships education gives children and young people the information they need to understand what healthy and respectful relationships look like (including friendships and family relationships). It also supports children and young people to stay safe and know when to ask for help.

## ***Myth “Parents will not being consulted on the development of their school's RSE policy”***

Buster: All schools will be required to engage parents and carers closely in the development of their RSE policy, and in the planning and delivery of this teaching. Clear communication between schools and parents and carers is essential for building trust and confidence in this teaching however, importantly this does not mean parents and carers will be able to stop the lessons or as mentioned withdraw their children from the classes.

## ***Myth “They are teaching children at primary school about LGBT+ people and they are too young to be exposed”***

Buster: Primary school age is not too young to be “exposed ” to LGBT+ people, as they exist in children's worlds already. This is about ensuring that children learn about LGBT+ identities in the same way they learn about other identities. Our inclusion is vital because it helps make sure that children who discover their own LGBT+ identity from an early age and children with same sex parents feel included in this teaching, and see their families reflected in what they learn. These lessons are about teaching those LGBT+ children and their peers about understanding and acceptance.

## ***Myth "Schools are teaching my children it's okay to be LGBT+ and that is against my religion. No one of my faith is LGBT+ and it goes against our teachings and disrespects our beliefs"***

Buster: This is just not true. People of all faiths and none are LGBT+ and every single child deserves a space to learn about different identities. In a climate where hatred is all minorities is on the rise, especially the hatred towards religious communities, we have a responsibility to build a more accepting and educated society that respects and understands each other and the best way to do this is through education.

Hundreds of schools with faith pupil majorities are already teaching about LGBT+ people. They're committed to tackling anti-LGBT+ bullying because of the values of love, respect, tolerance and understanding that lie at the heart of all major religions.

