**Advice on supporting a transitioning child**

**in school**

**(in consultation with parents of a trans child)**

**Dos:**

* Do fulfil your legal duty, Transgender people have the same rights under Equalities and Diversity legislation as other people.
* Do meet with parents to talk through anxieties, concerns and practical arrangements. Keep the conversation going whilst the pupil transitions.
* Do set a timeline for when the child will transition in school. I would recommend that the child attends a new term using their new name and identity.
* Do use the correct name and pronouns. Ensuring that **all** adults in the school role model this.
* Do make arrangements regarding toilets and changing for PE. Does the child want to use toilets for their preferred gender identity? Do they need a gender-neutral toilet? (Could be the disabled/ visitor toilet)
* Do ensure that the child’s books, equipment, and any photos display the new name.
* Do correct children and staff who use the wrong name/pronoun however, do this in a kind way as the brain needs to re-learn the name, which comes with application.
* Do engage in whole school training so all staff have an awareness of issues facing trans children and how to ensure best practice when supporting them. Transgender people face many changes and the whole family benefits from the support of the school.
* Do engage in whole school learning so all pupils have an awareness of LGBT+
* Do ‘keep it small’ - only the child’s class need to know the transition is happening not the whole school population.
* Do support the child’s teacher when telling the class that the child’s name will be changing, this can be a difficult concept for pupils to grasp and a PHSE lesson around respecting and celebrating difference.
* Do support any siblings in the school, their class will need telling too, it cannot be left for the sibling to explain the change. (This is even more important if pupils have siblings in the same class as the transitioning child.)
* Do keep in touch with parents. This can be a scary and overwhelming time for a family. They have to tell everyone they know that this is happening, they will have a mixed response and may need further emotional support.
* Do tell as many people as the parents would like you to, it limits the number of times they have to go through it. The head should inform teaching staff but not the parents.
* Do decide with the family how and when pupils are going to be told and if the transitioning pupil will be present during these lessons. ( My advice is that the pupil won’t be present to enable the other pupils time to explore the change more freely.)
* Do make plans for sex education lessons - is it appropriate for the trans gender pupil to be present when discussing puberty? (Puberty presents significant difficulties for Trans children.)
* Do quickly deal with any transphobic comments from staff, pupils or parents.
* Do buy books that represent the LGBT+ community for your classrooms and library
* Do adopt a whole school LGBT+ inclusive approach. Use examples in teaching of LGBT+ families. eg in maths, Millie went to the cinema with her two Mums. Adult tickets were £4.50 and a child’s ticket was £2.50. How much change did they have if they paid with £20?
* DO celebrate how **brave** and **amazing** this child is and how in touch they are with their own identity. They and their family will have gone through a lot of thinking before they talk to you.

**Don’ts**

* Don’t put the transition off any longer than you have to; the child will be eager to live as they identify.
* Don’t tolerate transphobic opinions from staff and parents. You have legal backing to support this child and issues need to be dealt with immediately. Remember it’s a hate crime.
* Don’t tell the parents of concerns or opinions from other parents. They don’t need to know, they will be dealing with enough opinion from friends and family.

A close-up of a box

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