

To: Parents and Carers

Date: 16th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Invitation to respond to a consultation on the Trans Inclusion Schools Toolkit

Brighton & Hove City Council provides a range of guidance and training for schools to help them tackle bullying issues and promote equality.

Since 2014 the council has produced something called the 'Trans Toolkit'. This give guidance for schools on how to support trans and gender exploring children.

Each school makes its own decision about whether or not to use the Toolkit. They are under no obligation to do so.

'Transgender' or 'trans' is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity is different from the sex assigned to them at birth. A person's sex assigned at birth is based on physical characteristics- It is acknowledged nationally that trans children are a group that has particular problems with being bullied. We want all our children to feel safe at school.

The Trans Toolkit asks schools to consider the needs of individual children and young people on a case by case basis in partnership with parents and carers. It advises schools to make sure they have in place processes to prevent and respond to gender stereotypes and bullying.

The Toolkit recognises that a tiny minority of trans young people may require medical interventions under strict medical supervision. However, it does not offer advice or guidance about this. The Toolkit's focus is simply on helping schools maintain a safe and supportive environment for the whole school community.

This is a complex area that Brighton & Hove schools have been managing positively for several years. Our Toolkit has received positive feedback from others in education nationally and internationally.

We have reviewed the Toolkit on a regular basis since it was introduced. This is to make sure it remains useful and relevant for our schools.

We have carried out an extensive review and consultation on version 4 of the *Trans Inclusion Schools Toolkit*. This has taken into account a range of views. As part of this review we are inviting our parents and carers to give us their views on the Toolkit

This consultation is open to parents, carers, staff, governors and year 10 students in Brighton & Hove schools and will close on the 9th April.

The Toolkit is written for educational professionals. We recognise that some of it is quite complex. But if you would like to participate in our consultation then you will of course need to read it first.

Your feedback will be anonymous and will be read and taken into account taken into account in the final draft which will be submitted to the Children and Young People's Committee for their consideration later this year. We will publish a brief summary of changes made.

The link to the consultation is here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Trans-Toolkit-survey-parents-carers>

Kind regards,



Deb Austin,
Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning.