Christian values in education

A good foundation
against the time to come

Roger Kiska
Legal Counsel, Christian Legal Centre
ECCCEN 2026, Apeldoorn, Netherlands

The hope of a nation

“The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth.”

Erasmus of Rotterdam



A good foundation

“A good foundation against the time to come”

1 Timothy 6:19

Every child bears God’s image.
Truth and love of neighbour shape education.

Section 28

Local Government Act 1988

A local authority shall not

(a) intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality

(b) promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship

Historical provision, repealed in England and Wales in 2003

Department for Education



Department for Education

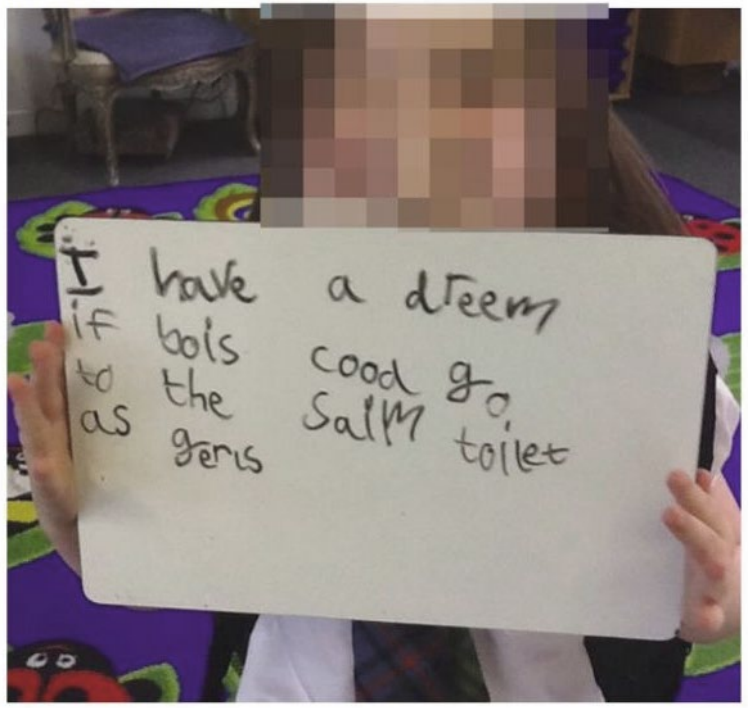


Departmental email signature

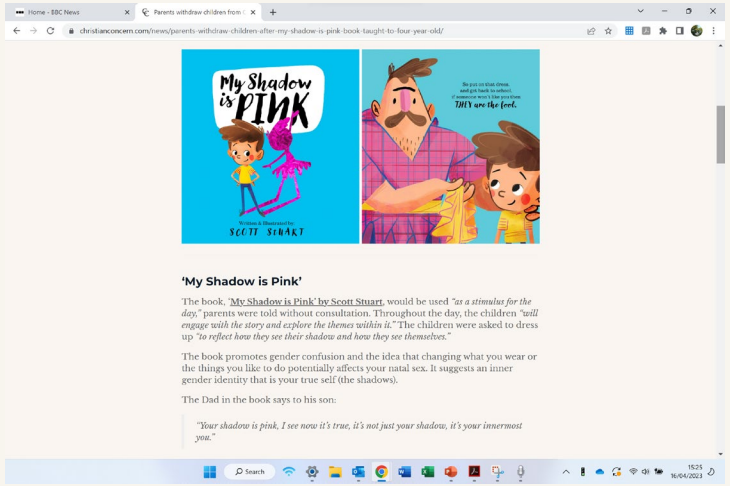
Ideology on display

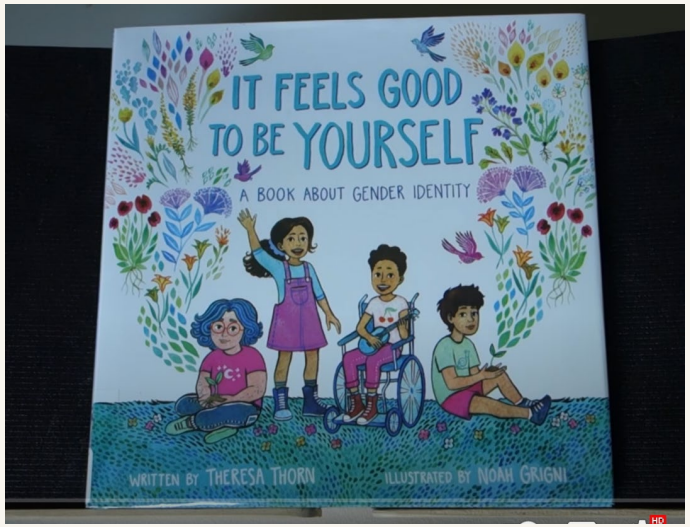
Heavers Year 1

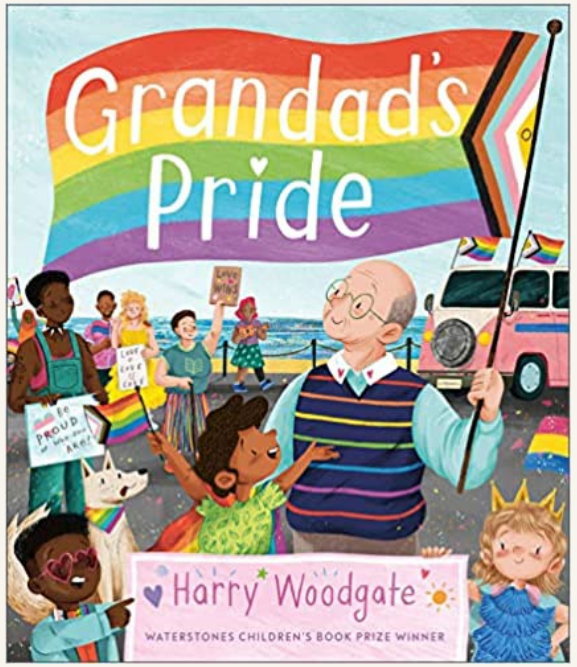
We have been learning about Martin Luther King for PSHE , here are some of our dreams.

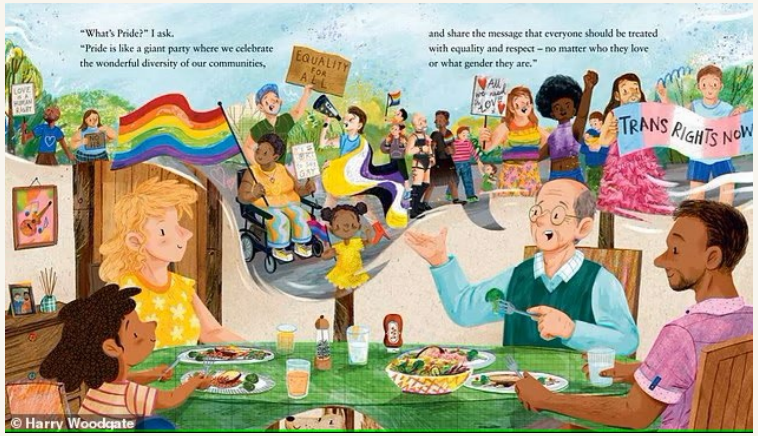


Education


My Shadow is PINK
SCOTT STUART
THEY are the best.
'My Shadow is Pink'
The book, 'My Shadow is Pink' by Scott Stuart, would be used "as a stimulus for the day," parents were told without consultation. Throughout the day, the children "will engage with the story and explore the themes within it." The children were asked to dress up "to reflect how they see their shadow and how they see themselves."
The book promotes gender confusion and the idea that changing what you wear or the things you like to do potentially affects your natal sex. It suggests an inner gender identity that is your true self (the shadows).
The Dad in the book says to his son:
"Your shadow is pink, I see now it's true, it's not just your shadow, it's your innermost you."


IT FEELS GOOD TO BE YOURSELF
A BOOK ABOUT GENDER IDENTITY
WRITTEN BY THERESA THORN
ILLUSTRATED BY NOAH GRIGNI


Grandad's Pride
Harry Woodgate
WATERSTONES CHILDREN'S BOOK PRIZE WINNER


"What's Pride?" I ask.
"Pride is like a giant party where we celebrate the wonderful diversity of our communities,
and share the message that everyone should be treated with equality and respect – no matter who they love or what gender they are."
EQUALITY FOR ALL
TRANS RIGHTS NOW
© Harry Woodgate

Organisations providing teaching resources

Stonewall SCHOOL CHAMPION

brook

LGBT YOUTH SCOTLAND

ellybarnes.com
Educate & Celebrate
How to make your school LGBT friendly

the PROUD Trust
home of LGBT+ youth

Diversity Role Models
Embracing difference, ending bullying

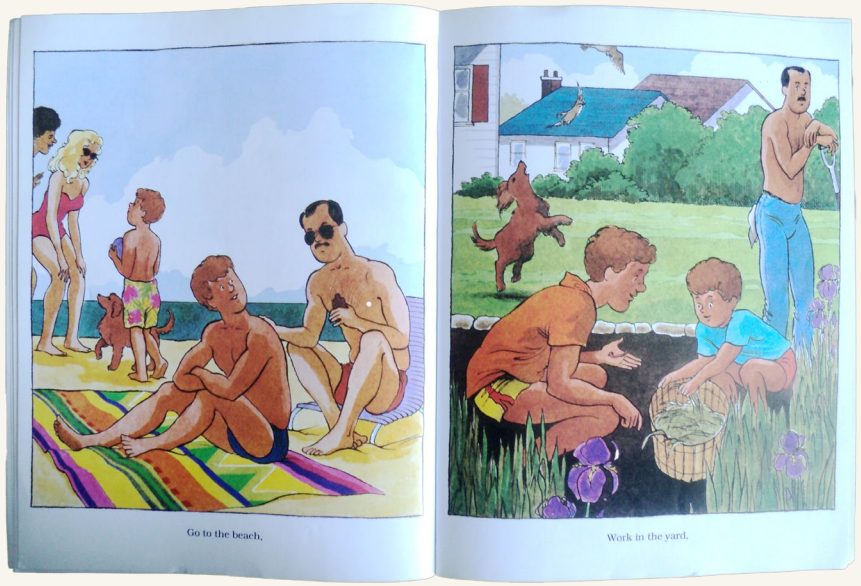
EQUALITEACH
equality training and consultancy

Curriculum, conscience and parental trust

Age and religious background matter

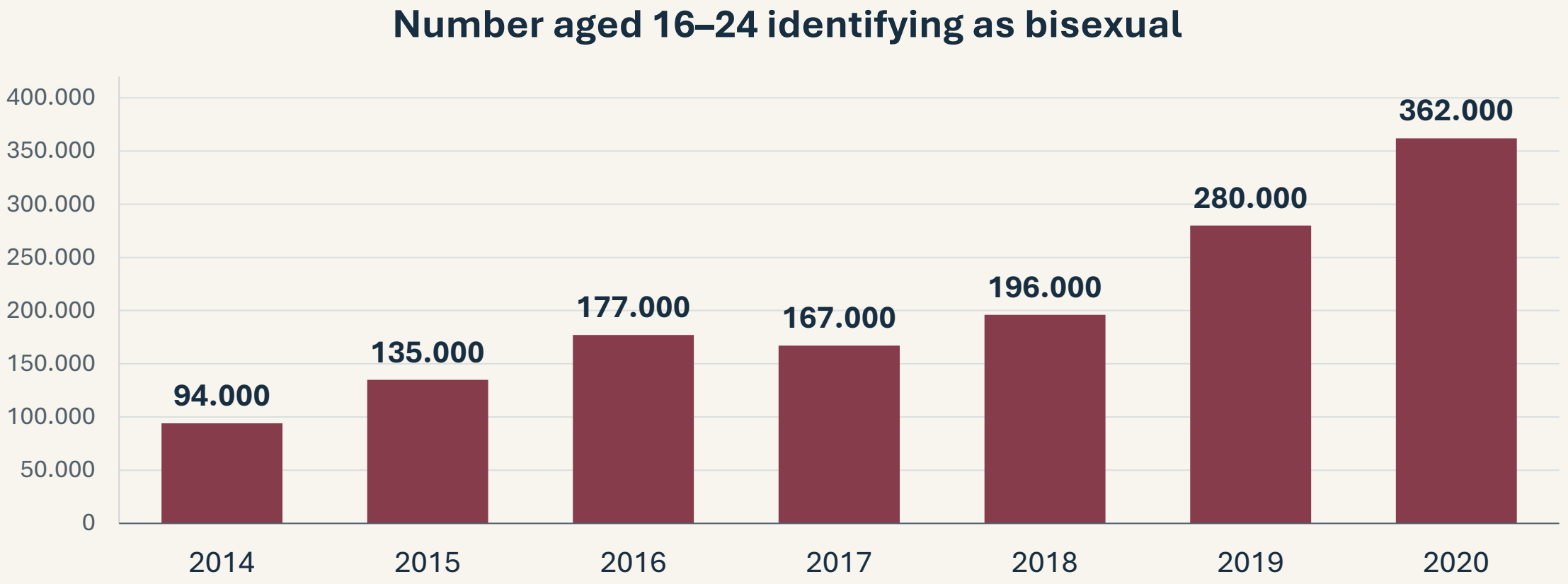
Parents need access to teaching materials

Schools must distinguish teaching from endorsement



Christian convictions belong within the educational conversation

Sexual orientation among young people



UK estimates for ages 16–24, 2014–2020

Young people identifying as LGB



Women aged 16–24

4.8% in 2017
10.6% in 2022

Men aged 16–24

3.8% in 2017
7.9% in 2022

UK Office of National Statistics Data

Review of sex education in schools

Rishi Sunak launches review of sex education in schools

MPs welcome PM's news following revelations that children were being taught 'age inappropriate' material in class

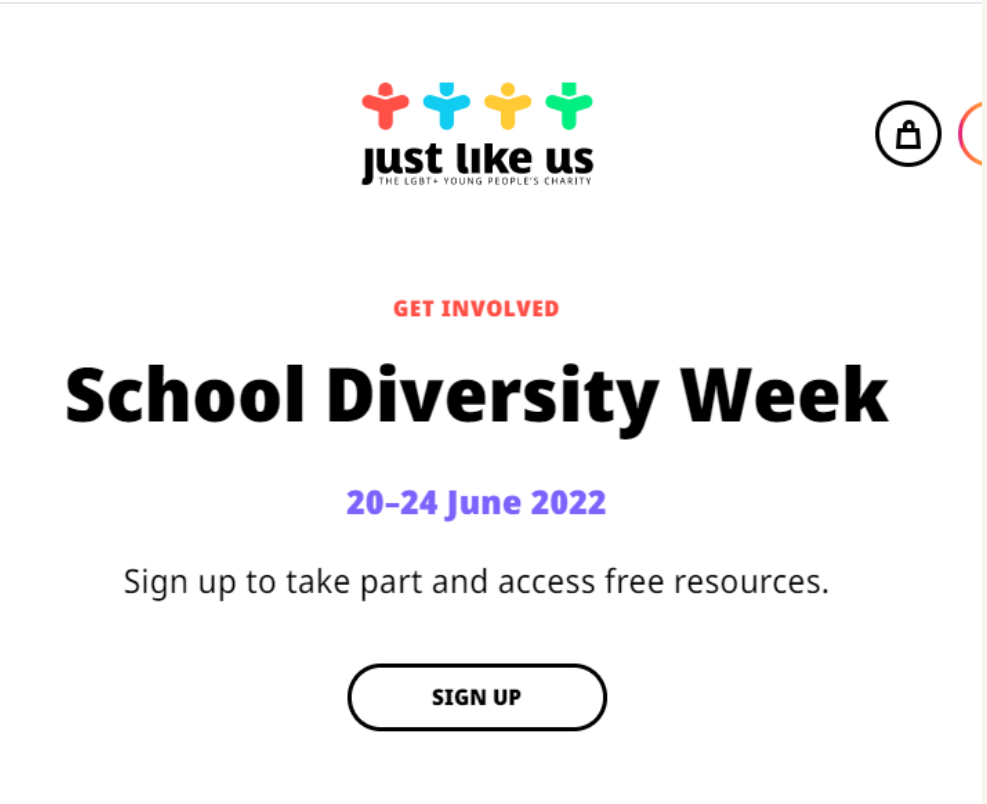
By Catherine Lough *and* Louisa Clarence-Smith, EDUCATION EDITOR
8 March 2023 • 7:05pm

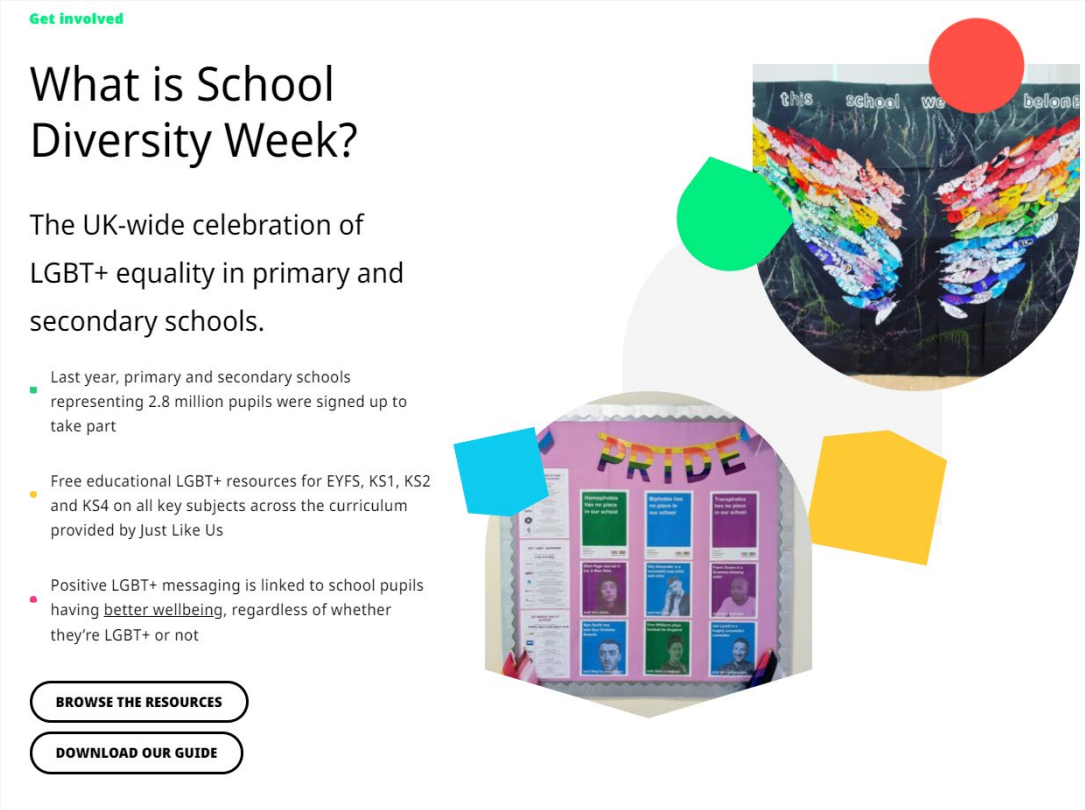


Nearly 50 Conservative MPs wrote to Rishi Sunak urging him to launch an independent inquiry | CREDIT: Richard Pohle/Pool/AFP via Getty Images

Review announcement, March 2023

Pride and School Diversity Week





Examples of promotional materials from 2022

Pride celebrations in schools

Christian parents and teachers have raised concerns about school celebrations

Activities can move beyond explaining equality duties

Conscientious objections deserve a fair response

Mandatory participation and ideology can breach legal rights.

Kristie Higgs

Dismissed over personal Facebook posts



Court of Appeal found unlawful discrimination

Supreme Court refused permission to appeal

Higgs v Farmor's School [2025] EWCA Civ 109

Izzy Montague

A parent objected to her son's participation in Pride

The dispute concerned the school's treatment of the family and LGBT affirmation for children as young as 4-years-old.

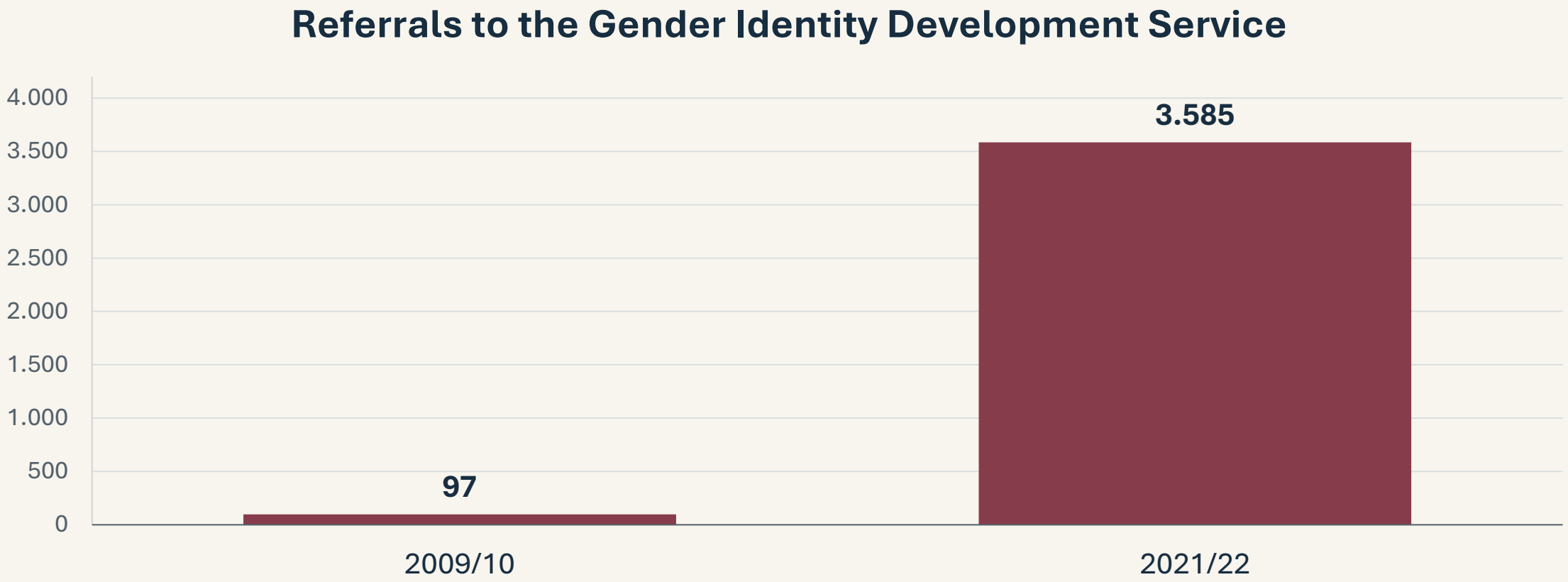
While the County Court dismissed the claim in 2023, the story was national news for several weeks.



Izzy Montague, a 38-year-old devout Christian from London claims her four-year-old son was compelled to take part in LGBT pride parade and is now suing his primary school on the grounds of discrimination

Standing up can change the educational climate.

Child referrals to GIDS



Historical referral figures, not numbers receiving medical treatment

Nigel and Sally Rowe

Parents challenged school policies on social transition

The Government settled their judicial review

£22,000 in costs and a commitment to reform guidance



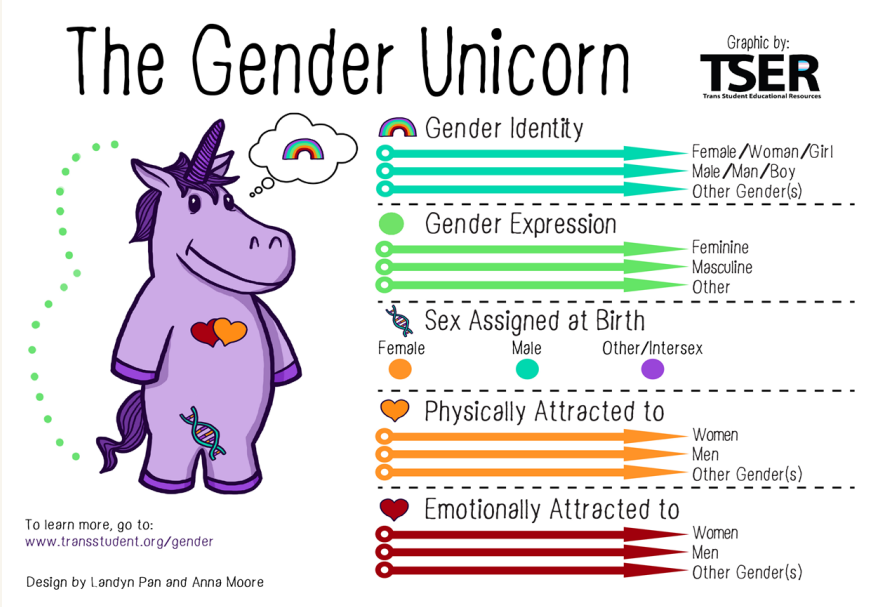
Parental persistence can expose a wider policy problem

Gender identity in teaching materials

The framework communicates contested propositions

A diagram can appear authoritative to a child

Teachers need sound judgement about age and evidence



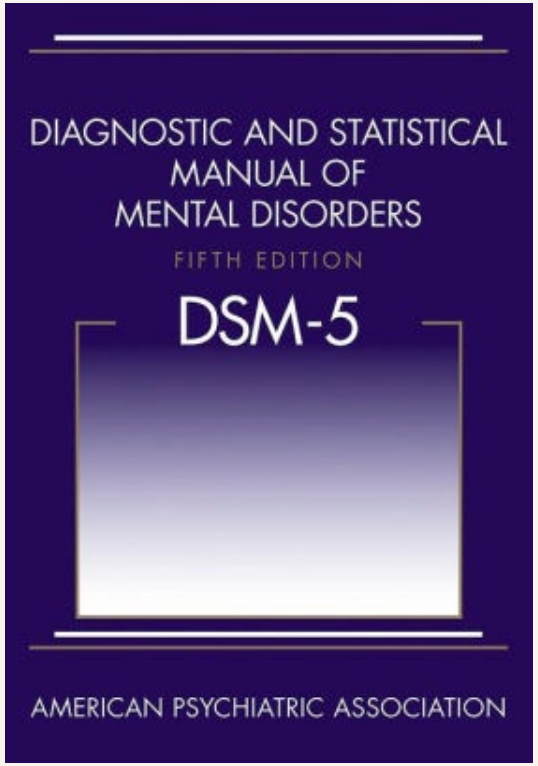
The Gender Unicorn

Childhood gender dysphoria

According to the DSM-5, as many as 98% of gender confused boys and 88% of gender confused girls eventually accept their biological sex after naturally passing through puberty.

According to the GIDS Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust, the average is 4-5 children.

The Endocrine Society cites a figure of 85%.



Social transitioning may interfere with the natural progression to puberty and organic resolution of gender confusion.

A warning about conditioning children

> “Conditioning children into believing a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful is child abuse.”

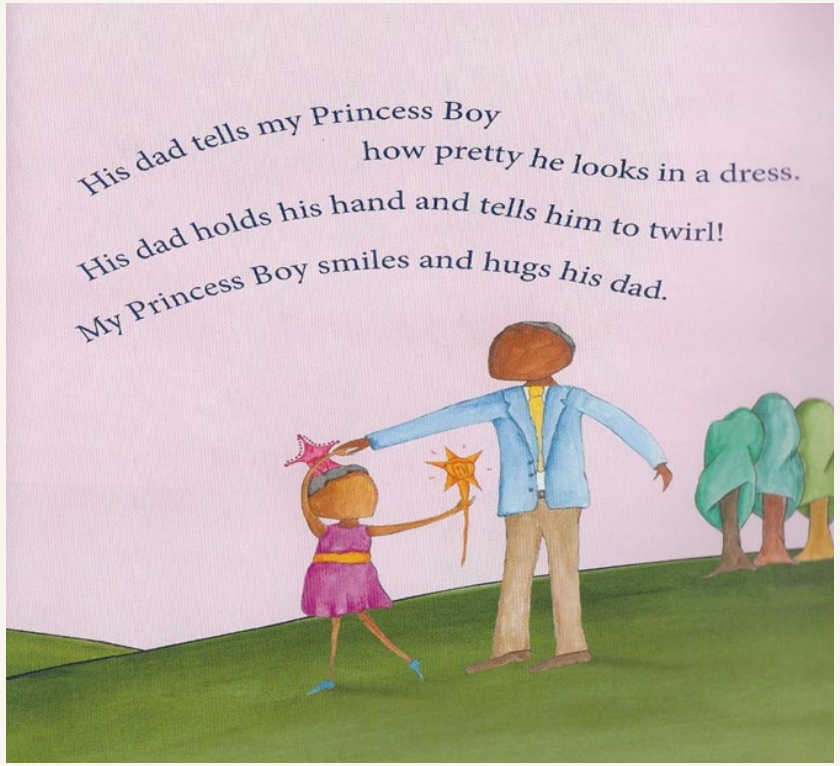
American College of Pediatricians

The Cass Review and educational judgement

Evidence must guide decisions affecting children

Distress calls for careful, individual assessment

Schools should avoid presenting transition as a simple solution



A welcome shift in government approach.

Parents’ convictions and educational freedom

ECHR, Article 2 of Protocol 1

Respect for parents’ religious and philosophical convictions

ICCPR 18(4) and ICESCR 13(3)–(4)

Religious and moral education, parental choice and independent institutions

Pluralism requires practical room for Christian education

VAT and the survival of Christian schools

20%

VAT generally applies to chargeable private school education from January 2025

Small Christian schools and modest-income families can face serious pressure

The Government’s stated aim is revenue for state education

The Christian schools' VAT challenge

Christian Legal Centre supports schools and families

The challenge asks whether the policy strikes a fair balance and is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights

Supreme Court permission on proportionality was granted in June 2026

The practical impact on religious education matters

Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026

Registers and information duties for children outside school

Consent requirements for withdrawal in specified circumstances

Greater scrutiny of educational arrangements

The concern is that home education becomes a suspect category

Christian learning centres and regulation

The Act widens regulation of full-time educational institutions

Supplementary religious activity is not automatically a school

Ofsted’s investigative powers have statutory conditions

Clear boundaries and proportionate enforcement protect legitimate provision

How to raise your voice as a parent

1. Stay engaged and appreciate teachers
2. Begin with a personal, constructive conversation
3. Read the school’s policies and complaints procedure
4. Understand consultation, withdrawal and religious-freedom rights
5. Escalate to school leaders and governors when necessary
6. Use the appropriate authority or regulator and obtain advice

A precise concern and a clear remedy make engagement more effective

Becoming an Issachar people

For the sake of our children

Parents’ prayerful influence and informed voice

Home education and new Christian schools

Christian teachers serving within the system

Education organisations and churches supporting families

Encouragement for Christian schools

Support for groups at different stages of starting schools

Christian Concern’s education team offers encouragement

School pioneers can gather to share experience and resources

Booklets and events help communities develop their plans

Excellent teaching and sound safeguarding strengthen the Christian witness

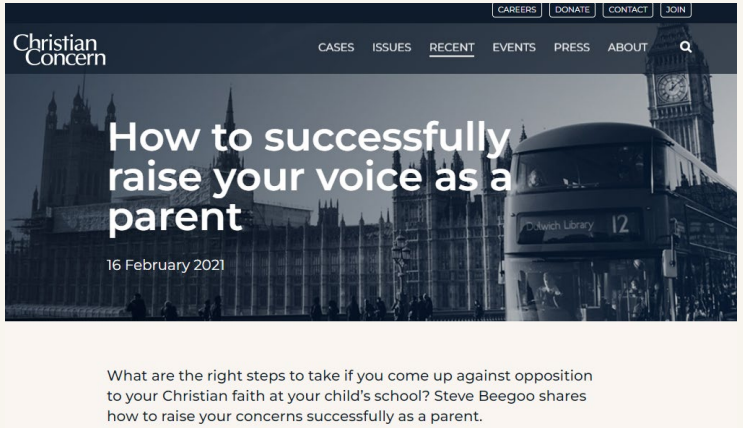
Resources and support

Articles and practical resources

Advice through the Christian Legal Centre

Letters and templates for parents and schools

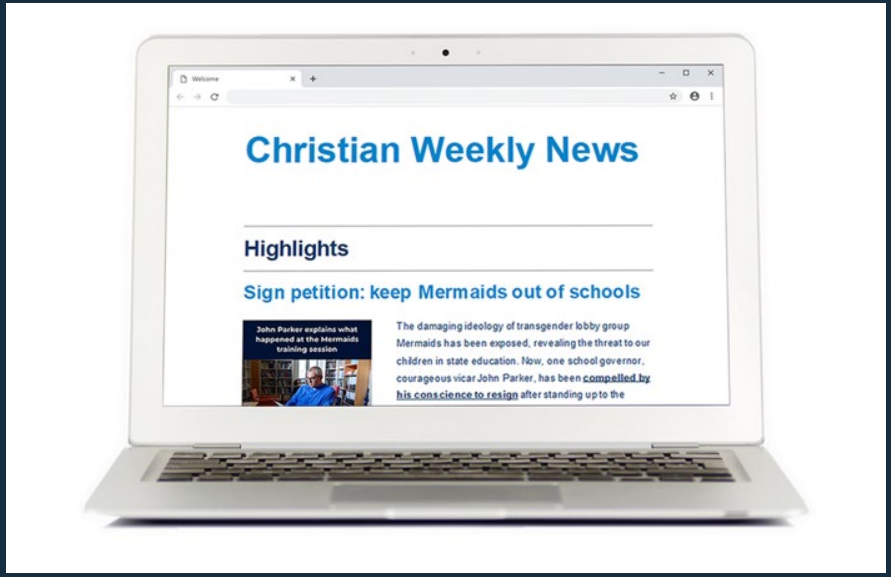






Weekly news for prayer and action

Christian Concern



christianconcern.com/hello

Thank you for your attention



A good foundation
against the time to come

1 Timothy 6:19