

Question:

To ask Her Majesty's Government which Government department is responsible for the policy contained in guidance and reports on transgender education in schools. (HL9944)

Tabled on: 03 November 2020

This question was grouped with the following question(s) for answer:

1. To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish new transgender guidance for schools; and when such guidance will be available. (HL9943)

Tabled on: 03 November 2020

Answer:**Baroness Berridge:**

The department continues to work closely with the Government Equalities Office to understand developments in this area, including non-departmental guidance and reports, and consider how government can best support the school sector.

We recognise that these are complex and sensitive matters to navigate, and schools are best placed to work with parents, pupils and public services to decide what is best for individual children – and what is best for all others in the school.

To note, the department has published guidance to help schools understand how to fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010. This guidance is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>.

In relation to teaching, the department has recently published implementation guidance for Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE). This sets out that all resources used in teaching about gender and biological sex should be age-appropriate and evidence based. Teachers should not reinforce harmful stereotypes, for instance by suggesting that children might be a different gender based on their personality and interests, or the clothes they prefer to wear – they should of course always seek to treat individual students with empathy and support.

Date and time of answer: 17 Nov 2020 at 16:57.

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