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Baroness Berridge of the Vale of Catmose

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System
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Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne
By email: willmottk@parliament.uk

22nd May 2020

Dear Baroness Nicholson,

Thank you for your letter of 1 May, addressed to the Minister for Women and Equalities, regarding 'Trans-Toolkits' being used in schools. Your letter was passed to this Department and I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

We recognise that these issues are complex and sensitive matters to navigate. Schools are best placed to work with parents, pupils and public services to agree what is best for individual children and others.

There are resources designed by organisations to support schools in decision making, however these have not been produced or endorsed by the Department for Education. The Department has published advice to support schools to fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010, and all schools must have regard to statutory guidance as stated in the document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This guidance is available at: tinyurl.com/p9cxb7e.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

ELIZABETH BERRIDGE

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE