

Why

Trans

Educators

Matter

Why trans educators matter

The National Education Union proudly supports a diverse workforce, which celebrates difference and promotes a common humanity. Supporting transgender pupils and staff means ensuring that the attitudes which generate transphobia and perpetuate stereotypes about gender, sexism and misogyny, are eliminated across all areas of school life.

Silence and invisibility about this issue in schools is the wrong approach.

Good trans educators stand proudly alongside the previous generations of black educators, women educators, and disabled educators as wise, caring and respected people who pupils may well one day wish themselves to grow up to be. We simply add to the lexicon of person stories that teach young people how to be proud of themselves and to live life to the full.

Stephen Whittle

Trans educators can teach students to not be afraid.

**Jay Stewart,
Co founder and Facilitator,
Gendered Intelligence**

Evidence from cultural historians has shown that trans people have existed in every human society that has ever existed on this planet. Excluding trans people only weakens us, by reducing diversity.

**Natacha Kennedy,
Trans Academic**

When I was at school, I had nobody to relate to. I thought I was alone. I thought people like me were somehow wrong, faulty, defective. I didn't see how I could live my life in a way that was true to who I was, because I had no role models to show me it was possible. An educator like me might have given me hope.

**Sarah Brown, Liberal Democrat
and Trans Activist**

Can children cope with the idea of people changing gender? Will it upset them? Children's literature is full of transformation stories. If a mouse can become a footman and a frog can become a man without traumatising young minds then men and women crossing gender roles is a tame idea by comparison.

Christine Burns, Author of 'Making Equality Work' and 'Pressing Matters'

Having educators of all gender identities is essential to educating through our 'usualising' pedagogy, in that all of us can walk down school corridors without any fear of discrimination. This will only happen when we consistently model and teach difference and diversity without any apologies for who we are.

**Elly Barnes, Director and Founder of
'Educate and Celebrate'**