

There are a number of things that I feel are essential to this bill:

That pupils who “come out” as gay, bi, lesbian or trans at school be protected from punitive action by the school or discrimination because of their sexuality or gender identity. Discrimination could take a number of forms:

1. Expelling the pupil because of their sexuality or gender identity (including when the school judges, wrongly that instances of bullying “prove” the pupil is a disruptive element)
2. Disciplining the pupil in any other manner for their stated identity or bullying hat results.
3. Accommodating the pupils’ needs:
 - a. Allowing them to take same gendered partners to school proms
 - b. Allowing transitioning children to use appropriate bathrooms and school uniforms

Strongly urge all schools to implement Safer Schools so that staff are fully briefed on how to be sensitive to such pupils needs, accommodate those needs and be aware of bullying and how to counter it.

Finally, some children are born intersex and others choose to be non-binary. Their needs will be different from transgender pupils but should also be accommodated.