

Findings and Recommendations from a 2020 Frontiers of Sociology article on LGBT inclusive education (open access).

Thriving or Surviving? Raising our ambition for trans children in primary and secondary schools

Cal Horton, Goldsmiths, University of London

Trans pupils face stigma and ' invalidation at school, often, alongside **discrimination** and harassment

Affirmative language, respect and **trans**positivity are critical.

Trans pupils experience persistent **stress**, navigating systems that delegitimise and exclude them. An antibullying approach underestimates the emotional and psychological impact on trans pupils of cisnormativity\*.-



Schools need to address the cisnormative practices that negatively impact on the wellbeing and mental health of trans pupils.

Schools respond to individual requests **reactively**, with trans pupils shouldering the burden of negotiating their own inclusion.

A culture of silence surrounds > trans lives at school - minimal trans representation can be perceived as excessive. Trans pupils denied representation in school experience **shame** and low self-esteem, and are forced to educate their own peers.



Schools need to move from individualized accommodation to proactive and sustained adaptation.

> Trans representation and visibility needs to become common and unremarkable, enabling trans pupils to grow up with a sense of belonging and self-worth.

ignorance and hostility from school staff, causing significant harm. Even one supportive and trusted teacher can make a profound positive impact on a trans pupil's experience of school. **Teacher trans-positivity** is significantly correlated with pupil wellbeing. --

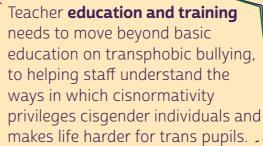
Trans pupils may experience

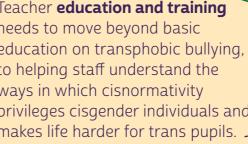


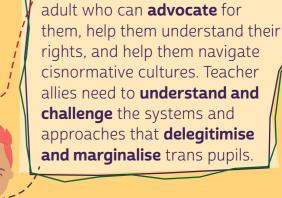
Schools need to recognize and address the **pressures and barriers** to teacher action. Clear leadership is essential, and can be driven by governors, head teachers and individual members of staff.











Trans pupils need at least one



Trans children have a 🥆 right to an educational experience that is safe, inclusive and affirming.



Schools should **listen to** trans pupils and centre child rights. Schools also need to consider their **institutional** responsibilities, ensuring schools are fulfilling their duty of care to trans pupils.



**Trans:** The term trans is used here to include people who are transgender, non-binary and/or gender diverse.



