

Why

Trans

Teachers

Matter

Why trans teachers matter

The NUT 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 are eliminated across all areas of school life.

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

Christine Blower, General Secretary, NUT

Good trans teachers stand proudly alongside the previous generations of black teachers, women teachers, and disabled teachers 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

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. A teacher 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 a trans teacher helps to show pupils that nothing is fixed, that everything can be changed, that everything can be improved. That goals and dreams can be made real.

Juno Roche, NUT

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

Having teachers 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'

Trans teachers can teach students to not be afraid.

Jay Stewart, Co founder and Facilitator, Gendered Intelligence