

# What does it mean to be a girl in 2018?

Dr Eleanor Draeger  
Sex Education Forum  
18<sup>th</sup> June 2018

# Sex Education Forum

- 30 years shaping policy & practice
- 80+ National partners
- Hosted at National Children's Bureau
- Resources, evidence, campaigns
- Training & support for best practice



# The Equality Act 2010

Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation



## The Equality Act 2010 and schools

Departmental advice for school leaders,  
school staff, governing bodies and local  
authorities

May 2014

# HBT Programme

- Funded by the Department of Education
  - Gender Matters
  - LGBT-inclusive RSE

LEARN EQUALITY

LIVE EQUAL



# How gender affects children's lives



<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/01/children-explain-how-gender-affects-their-lives/>

# Activity

- Which children talked about their genitals?
- Which children talked about their future career?
- Were any children negative about their gender?

# Challenging gender

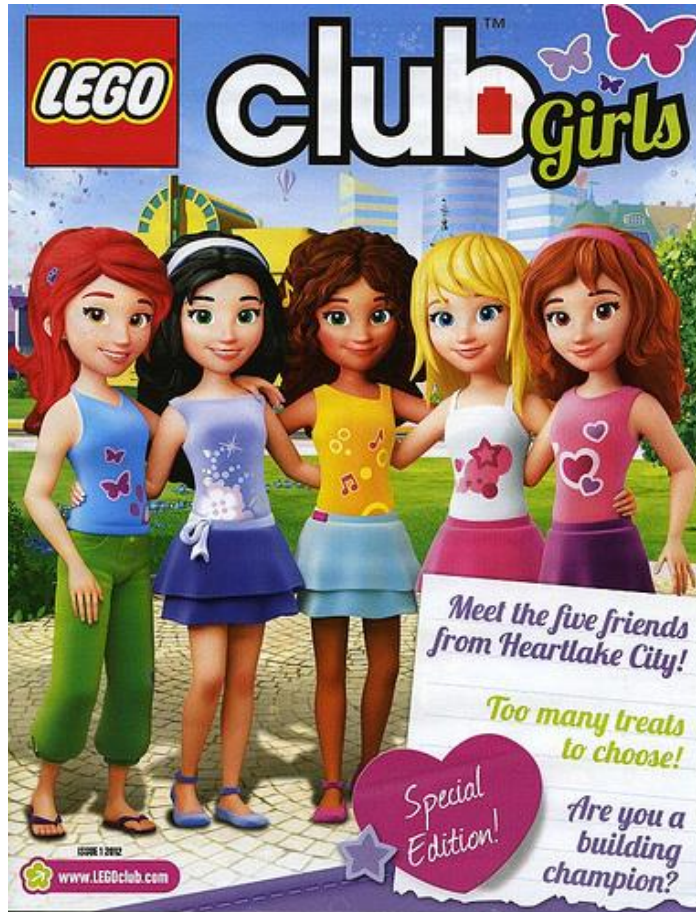
*“Only the human mind invents categories and tries to force facts into separated pigeon-holes. The living world is a continuum in each and every one of its aspects”*

Alfred Kinsey, 1948





# Gender Stereotypes – Lego 2015





# Gender Stereotypes - Lego 1982

**Oh the fun of creating something you're this proud of.**

Children love to create. Things they've seen before—things they've never seen before. Whatever it is, there's great fun and a feeling of accomplishment in making it come to life.

And when they're finished, and it's just right, they'll come show it to you with pride. That's fun, too. Fun for them. Fun for you.

LEGO® Universal Building Sets give your children the

**Universal Building Sets.**

**Ages 3-7**

perfect opportunity to be creative. Building Sets for younger children have colorful bricks and friendly figures for building and playing. Sets for older children have special pieces that build more realistic toys. Toys that almost come to life.

LEGO Universal Building Sets give children something to be really proud of. Themselves.

**Ages 7-12**

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# Girls can do anything



Cressida Dick  
Police Commissioner



Cerrie Burnell  
TV Presenter and Author



Serena Williams  
Tennis Player



Lilly Cole  
Model



Nadiya Hussain  
Baker & Author



Theresa May  
Prime Minister



Karen Nyberg  
Astronaut

# From GDST Website

“We have one vision: to be pioneers in, and shapers of the future of, girls’ education; and one purpose: to help every girl fulfil her potential and her dreams.”

“Our four founders were determined that girls should be given the chance to be everything they can be. We look to the future with that same determination.”

# Are all your students girls?

- Some will be **Intersex**
- Best estimate – **1.7%** of the population
- As common as having red hair (**1-2%**)
- Covers a wide range of conditions

<https://www.intersexequality.com/how-common-is-intersex-in-humans/>

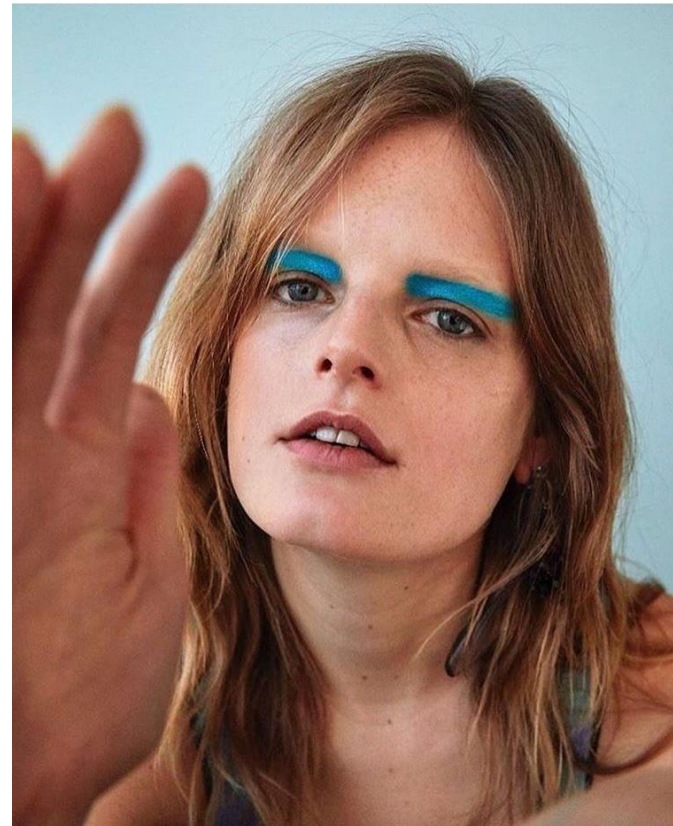


# Intersex – Hanne Odiele

- Supermodel
- Came out as intersex in 2017
- Androgen insensitivity syndrome
- Abdominal testicles removed age 10
- Didn't know she was intersex until she was 17



hannegabysees



# Are all your students girls?

- Some will be **Trans**
- We don't have accurate figures
- Estimates range from **0.1% - 1%** of population
- Locally (Student survey 2017)
  - How would you describe your gender (1022 responses)?

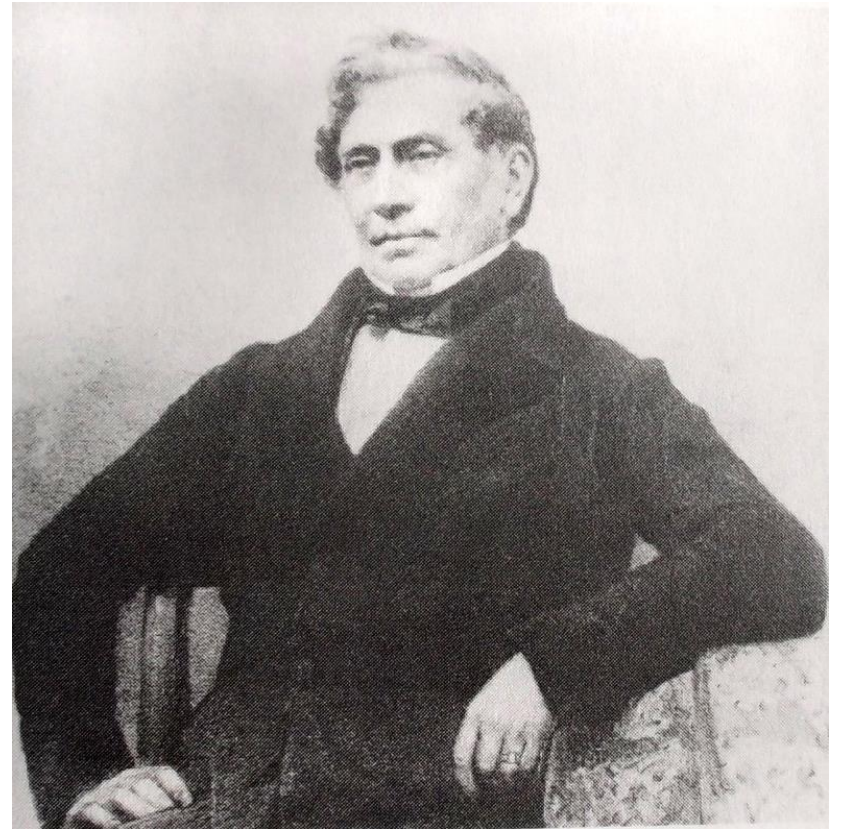
• Male	54%
• Female	38%
• Prefer not to say	1.6%
• Other	6.4%

→Analysing the 'other' responses gave a trans rate of **0.9%** of the total



# Trans – Dr James Barry

- 1795-1865
- Trained at Edinburgh University
- Military Surgeon
- Found to be a woman only after his death



# Transition

## **Social Transition**

Could include:

- A name change
- A change in pronoun (he, she, they, zie etc)
- Wearing clothes that are associated with their gender identity
- Use of toilets/changing rooms appropriate to their gender identity

## **Medical Transition**

Could include:

- Hormone blockers\*
- Hormones (testosterone or oestrogen)\*
- Surgery (not available to young people under the age of 18 In the UK)

\* Specific restrictions apply related to age/development

# Dress and uniform

“a pupil who identifies as a girl but was assigned male at birth is not a ‘boy dressed as a girl’ but is a girl.”

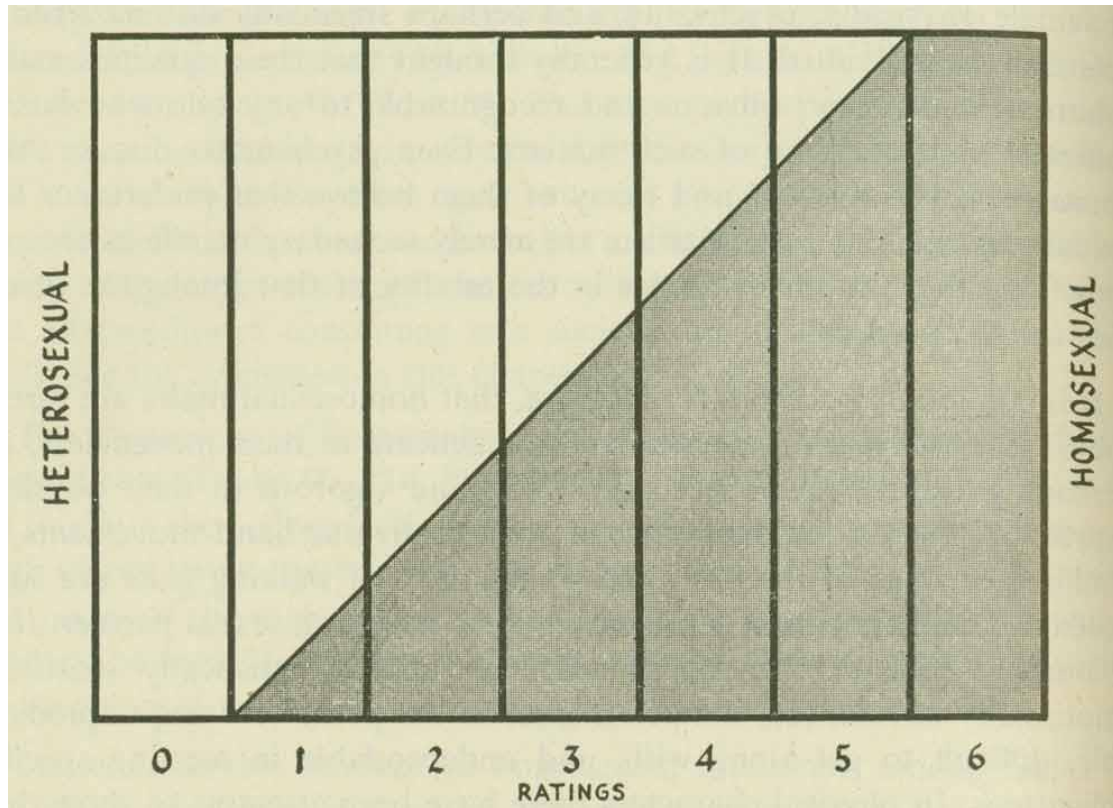
“By allowing a trans child or young person to dress in clothes which they feel comfortable with, schools empower them to express themselves by bringing their outward appearance in line with that of their internal gender identity”

Trans inclusive schools toolkit (2017), Brighton & Hove Standards and Achievements Team

# Are all your students heterosexual?

- Some will be **Lesbian** or **Bisexual**
  - Nationally (ONS 2016 – over 16s)
    - **2%** Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual
  - Locally (student survey 2017 – 11-18 year-olds)
    - How would you describe your sexual orientation?
    - Straight 86%
    - Gay/Lesbian **1.1%**
    - Bisexual **2%**
    - Not really sure yet 4.1%
    - Prefer not to say 3.8%
    - I describe myself as.... 3.1%
- Total LGB **3.1%**

# The Kinsey Scale (1948)



## Rating

**0** Exclusively  
heterosexual



**6** Exclusively  
homosexual

Rating of 3 or more (bisexual or gay/lesbian)  
Women 7%      Men 13%

# YouGov Poll (2015)

- People were asked to rate themselves on the Kinsey Scale
- Rating of 3 or more
  - All participants 15%
  - 18-24 year-olds 27%
- Rating of 1 or more (“not 100% heterosexual”)
  - All participants 18%
  - 18-24 year-olds 49%



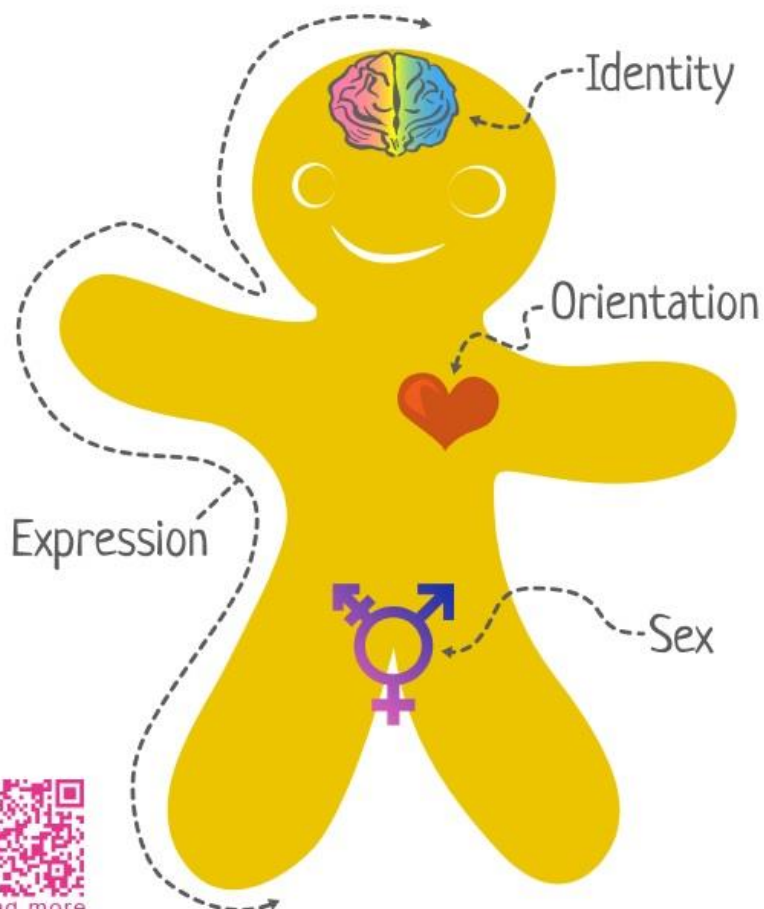
# Lesbian – Ruth Davidson

- Journalist
- Leader of Scottish Conservative Party
- Appeared with her partner Jen Wilson in a conservative party political broadcast in 2015
- Currently pregnant with her first child (due October 2018)



# The Genderbread Person

by [www.ItsPronouncedMetrosexual.com](http://www.ItsPronouncedMetrosexual.com)



 **Gender Identity**

Woman Genderqueer Man

Gender identity is how you, in your head, think about yourself. It's the chemistry that composes you (e.g., hormonal levels) and how you interpret what that means.

 **Gender Expression**

Feminine Androgynous Masculine

Gender expression is how you demonstrate your gender (based on traditional gender roles) through the ways you act, dress, behave, and interact.

 **Biological Sex**

Female Intersex Male

Biological sex refers to the objectively measurable organs, hormones, and chromosomes. Female = vagina, ovaries, XX chromosomes; male = penis, testes, XY chromosomes; intersex = a combination of the two.

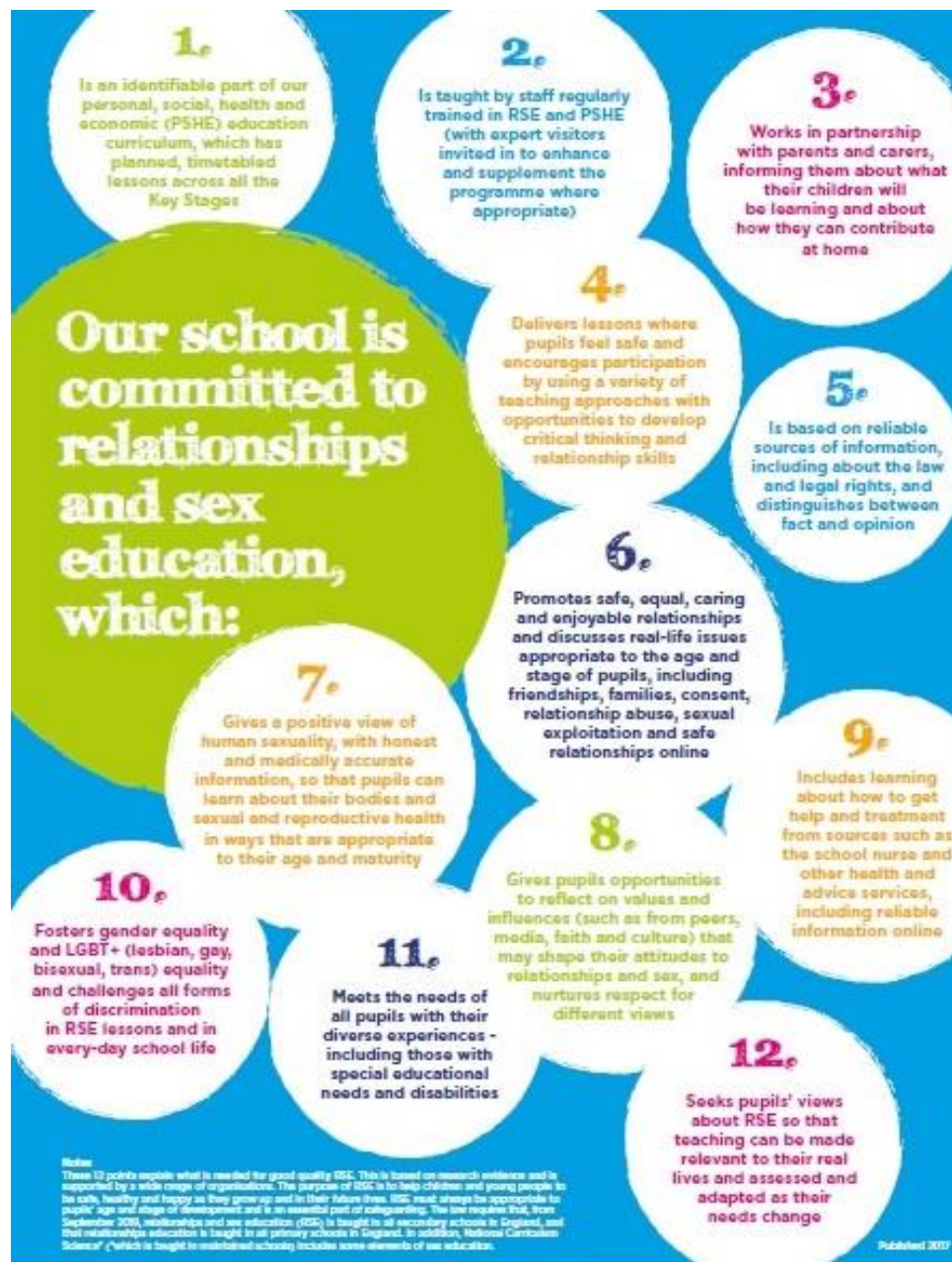
 **Sexual Orientation**

Heterosexual Bisexual Homosexual

Sexual orientation is who you are physically, spiritually, and emotionally attracted to, based on their sex/gender in relation to your own.

# Mental Health

- More than **one in four** (27%) trans young people have attempted to commit suicide
  - (Youth Chances 2014)
- **Nearly half** of lesbian, gay, bi and trans pupils (45%) – including **64 per cent** of trans pupils – are bullied for being LGBT at school
  - (Stonewall School Report 2017)
- More than **one in ten** trans people (11%) who are out to their family, aren't supported by any of their family members.
  - (Stonewall LGBT report – the Trans Issue 2018)





**10.**

**Fosters gender equality and  
LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
trans) equality and challenges  
all forms of discrimination  
in RSE lessons and in  
every-day school life**

# Girls in 2018

“We should be preparing children for the future we hope they will live in – a diverse, non-sexist one. Why aren’t we preparing them for a world in which women don’t want to have children or men want to stay at home and care for them?”

*(Primary teacher)*

<https://www.teachers.org.uk/files/stereotypes-stop.pdf>



# Questions?

# Further Training

- Courses available to commission
  - Getting ready for statutory RSE – primary or secondary
  - Gender Matters – primary or secondary
  - LGBT-inclusive RSE – primary or secondary
  - Outside the Box - secondary
  - Teaching Positive Sexual Health - secondary

<http://www.sexeducationforum.org.uk>

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