Advice for gender neutral areas for young people



Toilets

Children and Young People have the right to access the toilet that corresponds to their gender identity. Single gender toilets can cause issues for children and young people who do not identify with a gender binary such as boy/girl. Any child regardless of the underlying reason (disability, trans, non-binary, faith) should be provided access to a single stall toilet, but no child or young person should be required to use such a toilet.

Ideally, and where funding and space allows; performance/modelling settings should provide a mixture of access to toilets that includes:

Single gender toilets

Blocks of floor to ceiling toilets that can be used by all, with sanitary bins in each cubicle ('toilets for everyone')

Accessible single toilets

Performance/Production settings will want to discuss with trans pupils and students and if appropriate their families which toilet provision they would feel safest using. Performance/Production settings may be concerned about the responses of some parents and carers to trans pupils using the toilets or changing rooms that correspond to their gender identity and persons responsible for productions can reassure themselves and the wider community that this is supported by the Equality Act and not in any way a safeguarding issue. When a parent or carer raises a concern about the safety of their child when spending time in the company of a trans-identified child/young person or staff member, support work should be aimed at answering the question: 'How can we make your child feel safer?' rather than compromising the rights of the trans person.

Changing Rooms

The use of changing rooms by children/young people should be assessed on a case-bycase basis in discussion with the trans children/young people. The goal should be to maximise social integration and promote an equal opportunity to participate in any type of performance, ensuring the safety and comfort, and minimising stigmatisation of the child or young person in all cases, trans children/young people should have access to the changing room that corresponds to their gender identity.

Any child or young person who has a need or desire for increased privacy, regardless of the underlying reason, should be provided with a reasonable alternative changing area such as the use of a private area or with a separate time to change.

NODA, 15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough, PE2 7UH Registered CIO 1171216, Registered Company 241572. Any alternative arrangement should be provided in a way that protects the child or young person's ability to keep their trans status confidential.

Many trans gender children and young people can also feel uncomfortable when changing and it is important to ensure that these are safe environments for all by challenging underlying attitudes and bullying behaviours.

If you would like future advice please go to the website below www.gov.uk/guidance/advice-and-support-for-lgbt-people