

Allerton Grange



Aspire, Grow, Succeed

GUIDELINES FOR TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

Designated Lead: Sarah Whittingham

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Update January 2025: Government guidance under review (consultation process still ongoing).

Next review: November 2026

S Whittingham

Allerton Grange Guidelines for Transgender Students

Students who identify themselves as transgender will need support with various issues that they may encounter in school. Some are practical issues; others are more about the emotional well-being of the young person.

In order for transgender students to feel fully involved, happy and safe at Allerton Grange School, we recognise that they need to feel accepted and respected by the whole school community. Our PHSE curriculum, assemblies and form time will be used to raise awareness of transgender issues. Positive role models from our transgender community will be used to combat stereotypes and any potential discrimination.

Here are the steps Allerton Grange School will take to support students who identify as transgender or questioning:

Sharing information with other students

Transgender young people will approach their gender identity in different ways and will want their gender change to be communicated to the wider school community in a way that they are comfortable with. Allerton Grange School will always take into account the wishes of our student and their family when sharing sensitive information so that they feel supported through the whole process.

Information on SIMs

When a young person chooses to be known by a different name and/or gender, school will work closely with them and their family to facilitate this. Members of school staff will be briefed to ensure that they start using the correct new name and pronoun when communicating with and/or about the young person. This information will be shared with our exam boards so that the correct new name will be stated on exam certificates and linked to the correct UPN. Should the exam board ask for legal documentation, Allerton Grange School will request that from the young person's parents/carers.

School Uniform

Transgender students will be permitted to wear the uniform of the gender they determine to be correct. Although trousers are an option for male and female students, some M2F (male to female) students may choose to wear a school skirt. Our PE department will exercise sensitivity in relation to PE kit and individual arrangements will be put in place around the school's changing facilities. With effect from February 2018, the Uniform requirements, for PE and across school, have been updated so they are now gender neutral.

Toilet Facilities

Transgender students will be permitted to use our gender-neutral toilets in the school building which are available throughout the day. Using these nominated toilets will protect the rights of our transgender and non-transgender young people.

PE Lessons

Transgender students will be offered the use of gender-neutral changing facilities. If appropriate they will be able to access a delayed start and early finish to the lesson which will avoid any situations where they could be made to feel uncomfortable.

Students will be permitted to join in all PE activities available to their gender, but a risk assessment process may be used to consider any potential risks of participation. In particular, consideration will be given to unfair advantage in a sporting context or risk of injury in any contact sports.

If sporting fixtures involve transgender students, guidance will be sought from the relevant sporting governing body. The member of staff responsible for the team will contact the opposing team's coach in advance to ensure that they are made aware and that suitable changing facilities are available. If not, transgender students will change into their kit before travelling to the away fixture.

Vaccinations

Arrangements for vaccinations will be discussed with transgender students in advance in order for reasonable adjustments to be made. Allerton Grange School recognises that queuing for gender specific vaccinations may be uncomfortable for transgender students, therefore, specific arrangements will be made around the timing and venue of their vaccination. It may be appropriate, where possible, for their vaccinations to be administered by their registered GP.

School Trips and Residential Visits

Transgender students will be directed to gender neutral toilets when out on school trips to maintain the same arrangements as in school. On residential trips, sleeping arrangements will be discussed well in advance of the visit to allow reasonable adjustments to be made to any accommodation arrangements. In particular, students may be asked to sleep in a single room for the duration of the visit. Passport arrangements will be the responsibility of the parent/carer but Allerton Grange School will work closely with them to ensure the correct documentation is secured in time for the trip.

Parents/carers will be signposted to the relevant department of the passport office.

Allerton Grange School will check the laws of the destination country regarding transgender individuals to ensure that any potential issues can be resolved in advance.

Spectrum

Allerton Grange School has developed its own LGBTQ after school club which takes place at 15.15 every Wednesday afternoon. This group, known as 'Spectrum', was originally set up by a former transgender student and is an opportunity for young people to express themselves in a safe environment. Students who attend the group feel supported and get benefit from being able to share any feelings of anxiety or confusion. There is a school colleague present at each meeting to supervise and ensure that the young people's needs are being met.

Support and Guidance

A school colleague will be nominated to support all our Transgender and Questioning students to ensure they feel safe and supported. More specialist help can be sought through our Cluster if necessary. In addition, students will be signposted to external resources such as the Yorkshire Trans Support Network, Tavistock Gender Identity Development Service and NHS Gender Identity Clinics.