



Baroness Berridge of the Vale of Catmose

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System
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Baroness Wilcox of Newport
House of Lords
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30 March 2020

Dear Baroness Wilcox,

Thank you for your question in the House on gender equality in the curriculum, as well as your supplementary question on the Lifting Limits pilot project and how findings from its evaluation could be integrated into the curriculum across England.

Schools should be alive to issues such as everyday sexism, misogyny and stereotypes and take positive action to build a culture where these are not tolerated. You will be aware that state-funded schools are subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty. Additionally, the Independent School Standards requires independent schools to encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010, which of course include sex.

From the Lifting Limits pilot evaluation I note the success of the project in changing the attitudes about gender stereotypes through its whole-school approach.

One of the evaluation's recommendations for Government is for the introduction of Relationships Education in primary schools to promote teaching about gender stereotypes. I am pleased to say that, as outlined in statutory guidance, from September 2020 schools will be required to address, at primary, how stereotypes can be unfair, negative or destructive. This should then be built upon further through teaching at secondary. We also agree that subjects like these should be part of a whole-school approach and this too is highlighted in the statutory guidance.

I hope this follow-up information has been useful. I will place a copy of this letter in the house libraries.

ELIZABETH BERRIDGE

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE