



School of Education and Social Work

Our ref TK/CK

3rd December 2015

Public Petitions Clerks
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Members of the Public Petitions Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information regarding PE 1573 (Statutory teaching of LGBTI+ issues). We have two degree programmes for initial teacher education (MA & PGDE) and both programmes promote inclusive education generally, and also specifically cover LGBTI+ content.

Within the MA Programme we promote teaching practice that is inclusive especially with regards to resources, teacher questions and stories around the family - ensuring that through our language we are inclusive of the wider concept of the family in line with changes in legislation. In year two of the programme equality is highlighted with relation to *Getting it Right for Every Child* (GIRFEC). In the final year, one of the required modules is based around equality, and LGBTI+ issues are specifically addressed. LGBT Youth Scotland have been a particularly helpful resource in this module. An elective module in year 3/4 includes content on supporting children who are LGBTI or come from such families including relationships, sexual health and parenthood.

Our PGDE programme included LGBTI+ content from the very first lecture. This first module promotes inclusive practice to include LGBTI+ children/families, amongst other minority groups. Students must consider possible challenges for children and families and how teachers could promote an inclusive learning environment. Like the MA programme, the PGDE programme promotes teaching practice that is inclusive especially with regards to resources, teacher questions and stories around the family. LGBT Youth Scotland provide a valuable input in this programme as well.

The School is also piloting an online equality and diversity training package for all students as part of their matriculation onto programmes within the School. This includes material on sexual orientation and gender identity.

I hope this information is useful, but if you require more detail or additional information, please feel free to contact me again.

Best wishes,

Professor Timothy B. Kelly
Dean