

School of Education

9 December 2015

Mr Ned Sharratt
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
Public Petitions Clerks
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Sharratt

Re: CONSIDERATION OF PETITION [PE1573](#) (Statutory teaching of LGBTI+ issues)

Thank you for your letter (dated 28 October 2015) asking about the above matter.

I can confirm that equalities issues generally and issues that may be specific to the pastoral care of LGBTI+ pupils are addressed during University of Glasgow courses to attain qualifications in teacher education.

In our undergraduate MEd programme, the broad area of social justice, social inclusion, equality and diversity is addressed in two of our compulsory courses for students preparing to become teachers in Scottish primary schools: specifically in Education and Society 1 and Education and Society 2. Many of our students also take electives in Sociology 1 and Sociology 2, which also include a focus on equality issues.

In addition to these, LGBTI+ issues are specifically addressed in our compulsory Education in Practice 1-4 course strand of the MEd degree. This includes direct input by Glasgow City Council's LGBT Education Coordinator and by LGBT Youth in our Professional Practice seminars in Years 1 and 4.

Our PGDE programme includes professional development seminars to highlight strategies to deal with specific issues that might arise in the primary and secondary school sector – including issues of bullying. LGBT Youth was invited to speak to the student group about problems experienced by LGBT pupils and provided excellent advice on how these might be dealt with. The sessions are always well received by our students and we plan to continue to make these available to them in the future.

Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely

Professor Trevor Gale
Head of School of Education

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