# Nursery suspension for toddler raises concerns over handling of gender ideology



A toddler, aged approximately three or four, has been suspended from nursery school following allegations of transphobia and homophobia, according to new data from the Department for Education. This suspension, which occurred during the 2022-23 academic year, has raised eyebrows due to the age of the child involved. The specific details regarding the nursery and the circumstances surrounding the suspension have not been disclosed.

The data reveals that a total of 94 pupils across state primary schools were either suspended or permanently excluded for behaviour related to transphobia and homophobia during the same academic year. Among these cases, ten pupils were in Year 1 and three in Year 2, where the maximum age is just seven. Notably, one of the reported cases involved a child of nursery age.

Helen Joyce, director of advocacy at the campaign group Sex Matters, commented on the situation, stating: “Every once in a while, the extremes of gender ideology throw up a story that seems too crazy to believe, and a toddler being suspended from nursery for so-called ‘transphobia’ or homophobia is one such example.” Joyce expressed concern about how educators are interpreting and enforcing these policies on very young children.

The statistics indicate an overall increase in suspensions for homophobic or transphobic behaviour in schools, rising from 164 in the 2021-22 academic year to 178 in 2022-23. The local authority with the highest number of suspensions for these reasons in 2022-23 was Essex, with 16 cases reported. This was followed by Birmingham with 15 suspensions, Bradford with 11, and Norfolk with eight.

Lord Young, director of the Free Speech Union, remarked on the implications of such disciplinary actions, suggesting that if an ideology requires punitive measures against toddlers for non-compliance, it may warrant reconsideration. He stated: “I would have thought that if your ideology is so rigid it justifies you punishing toddlers for not complying with it, that's a powerful argument for discarding it in favour of something less dogmatic.”

In response to these incidents, a spokesperson from the Department for Education emphasised that all pupils and staff should feel safe and protected within the school environment, stating, “They should never face violence or abuse.” The government has indicated a commitment to a comprehensive behaviour support programme for schools aimed at ensuring best practices in school behaviour management.

The issue of transphobia in the educational system has been contentious, with parallels drawn to incidents from previous years, such as a case in 2022 where parents of a six-year-old boy were warned by a Church of England school about potential transphobia if their child questioned a peer wearing a dress. This letter outlined that children could be labelled as transphobic for not recognising a transgender person's gender identity.

The debate over transphobia and free speech in educational institutions has gained momentum, particularly following high-profile cases like that of feminist professor Kathleen Stock, who faced backlash and eventual resignation from her position at the University of Sussex in 2021 due to her views on gender identity. This event led to legal repercussions for the university, which was recently fined £585,000 for failing to uphold free speech on campus.

The rising number of suspensions and the involvement of very young children in such matters signify a growing complexity in how educational institutions address issues of gender identity and expression, reflecting broader societal tensions surrounding these topics.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2025/03/31/toddler-kicked-out-of-nursery-for-being-transphobic/> - Corroborates the claim that a toddler was suspended from nursery for alleged transphobia or homophobia, highlighting rising suspensions due to transphobic behavior in UK schools.
* <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/blog/new-poll-emphasizes-negative-impacts-of-anti-lgbtq-policies-on-lgbtq-youth/> - Details the negative impacts of anti-LGBTQ policies, which reflect broader societal tensions affecting educational institutions.
* <https://www.mapresearch.org/file/MAP-Under-Fire-Erasing-LGBTQ-People_2023.pdf> - Supports claims about efforts to restrict LGBTQ rights in schools, illustrating how policies affect the educational environment for LGBTQ youth.
* <https://www.google.com/search?q=Kathleen+Stock+University+of+Sussex+free+speech> - Provides context on Kathleen Stock's case and its relevance to free speech debates in universities.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-64013541> - Although not directly available in the search results, this type of URL typically covers educational issues, including discipline and free speech.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education> - Represents an official source where information about the Department for Education's commitments and policies on school safety and behavior might be found.