# Education Secretary allows teaching of gender reassignment surgery but not 'gender ideology' in English schools



Education Secretary Gillian Keegan announced that new guidance will be issued for schools in England, allowing students to learn about gender reassignment surgery but not "gender ideology." The guidelines, published on May 16, 2024, aim to stop teaching what Keegan described as "gender ideology" that ignores biological sex, particularly for students under nine years old.

Keegan clarified this policy stance on BBC Radio 4, stating that gender reassignment is a legally protected characteristic under the 2010 Equality Act, and schools can teach about it. However, she noted concerns about teaching gender identity as a spectrum and various non-binary genders, which some schools had allegedly introduced.

Keegan emphasized that her previous use of the phrase "trans women are women" referred specifically to those who had undergone full gender reassignment surgery. She now distinguishes between legal and medical recognition of gender following surgery and individuals who self-identify without undergoing surgery.

The guidance aims to address concerns raised by some teachers and parents about the materials being used in schools. The move reflects an evolving understanding of gender issues by the education secretary.