

The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education

Sanctuary Buildings

20 Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

28th December 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing from The Introvert Space, an organisation that works with schools and businesses, to raise awareness of the issues around personality diversity and to create a more inclusive environment for introverted individuals.

One in three Britons identify as introvert but currently the Department for Education has no guidelines for teachers on how to get the best out of these children.

Modern teaching methods favour extrovert students: with an emphasis on speaking up in class and group discussions as the 'best' way to learn subjects and as evidence of engagement.

However, introvert pupils find these teaching methods draining rather than stimulating and they act as a barrier to effective participation and engagement. Consequently, introvert pupils are often misunderstood and labelled as shy or disengaged.

This can impact on the wellbeing of introvert pupils, who are more prone to anxiety and depression. It can also prevent them from reaching their full academic potential.

Introverted pupils possess unique strengths and are just as capable of success as their extroverted peers. Their aptitude for deep thought, creativity, and attention to detail should be celebrated.

There are a number of minor adjustments that teachers can make to provide a better balance to the education environment. These include: flexible learning spaces, inclusive classroom policies and teacher awareness & training around personality diversity.

To address these concerns and create a more inclusive education environment, we have worked with experts in education, personality diversity and wellbeing to create a toolkit for teachers interested in this topic.

We would be interested to know:

- Whether the Department has any plans for teacher training to help better support pupils with introverted personalities?
- Whether the Department has plans to revise its guidance for teachers to include an understanding of how to support introvert pupils?

- What resources could be made available to schools to facilitate the implementation of changes to teaching methods and classroom environments to better support introverted pupils?
- How could the Department measure the impact of these changes on the well-being and academic performance of introverted pupils?

We would be happy to support officials in this endeavour and are requesting a meeting with you to see how we could take this work forward.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Etienne', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard Etienne, Founder

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