

Policy Statement on the use of certain facilities, participation in competitive sport and use of pronouns following the UK Supreme Court Ruling in *For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers*

Purpose

This policy statement sets out the Department of Education's policy on the use of certain facilities, participation in competitive sport and the use of pronouns for pupils attending all grant-aided schools, in Northern Ireland following the UK Supreme Court Ruling on 16 April 2025 on the 'For Women Scotland Ltd v The Scottish Ministers'.

Principles

1. Definition

Where this policy statement refers to 'boys' and 'girls' it refers to biological males and biological females respectively.

2. Use of changing rooms and toilet facilities

Boys should not use changing rooms when such changing rooms are being used by girls; girls should not use changing rooms when such changing rooms are being used by boys.

Boys and girls should use separate toilet facilities where these are provided. Boys should not use toilet facilities that are dedicated to the use of girls; girls should not use toilet facilities that are dedicated to the use of boys.

3. Competitive Sport

Except where the Governing Bodies of a sport have made provision for competitive participation between boys and girls, boys should not participate in competitive sport against girls; girls should not participate in competitive sport against boys.

4. Use of Pronouns

Neither pupils nor teachers should be compelled to use pronouns other than those which reflect biological sex.

Implementation

The Education Authority's Guidance for Schools, *EOTAS Centres and Youth Service on Supporting Transgender Young People* is withdrawn with immediate effect.