

Acceptance from an Early Age: teaching tolerance in primary schools

Passed at Spring 2020 Conference in Southport, 15 February 2020.

Conferences notes that there is no current programme in primary schools which deals with issues of acceptance and tolerance of all life choices.

At this critical age, it is important to educate children in the differences that exist within everyone, and how there is no 'normal' way to live your life, and that you should never be persecuted in any way because of the way someone lives their life.

For the first time in history we, as a society, are moving towards full equality for all people regardless of sexual orientation, race and gender, and how they choose to live their lives, but there is still a long way to go.

The Liberal Democrats would implement a one-hour class in all Primary Schools once a fortnight which would create a space to teach, and answer questions, about elements of life that have the potential to be persecuted.

Primary school pupils are the perfect age for such a programme as they are exploring the world and formulating thoughts and opinions that will dictate how they live the rest of their lives.

With more and more children of primary school age being exposed to the internet and social media through smartphone ownership, it is key that we expose any hate speech they come across and counter it with reasoned facts and argument.

Conference feels that in this way we can help the next generation of children become more tolerant, accepting and kind.