

# THE STRANGE NEW WORLD OF GENDER

## LIVING WISELY



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“When it comes to *ideas*, the church must patiently yet boldly speak the truth. When it comes to *people*, the church must be attentive to the person, to the desires, wounds and experiences that are being expressed.” (Abigail Favale)

Source: ‘Conversation: How should Catholics think about gender identity and transgender persons?’  
(13 October 2022) ([www.americamagazine.org](http://www.americamagazine.org))

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# GUIDING THE NEXT GENERATION: HELPING EVERY CHILD



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# The Gender Revolution & Young People

- In a recent survey of teenagers in the UK aged 16 – 18:
  - **1 in 10** reported that they wanted, or had at some point in the past wanted, to change gender;
  - **over half knew one or more people** in this situation.

Source: 'Show Tell and Leave Nothing to the imagination: How critical social justice is undermining British schooling', Jo-Anne Nadler (Civitas, May 2023): see survey results at p.43 (available at [www.civitas.org.uk](http://www.civitas.org.uk))



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**HELP YOUR CHILD  
TO COME TO**

**LIVING AND PERSONAL  
FAITH**

**IN**

**CHRIST**

**POSITIVE  
STEPS**



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# Identity: Who am I? How should I live?

<b>Knowledge</b>	Who knows me best? Who knows what is best for me to do?	Psalms 139 Proverbs 4:20,22
<b>Trust-worthiness</b>	Who loves me and wants the best for me?	Galatians 2:20
<b>Authority</b>	Who has the right to tell me what to do?	Psalms 47:2 1 Corinthians 6:19-20



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# Sex and Gender

## **Sex**

Teach children God's good design for male + female

## **Gender**

Avoid over-exaggerated stereotypes of masculinity and femininity

▶ **Who I am ...**

v.

▶ **How I am ...**

## A KEY DISTINCTION



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# THE BODY

HELP YOUR CHILD  
TO ENJOY LIFE IN  
THE PHYSICAL  
WORLD!



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# Relationships

## Relationships

Time together, one-to-one time, family meals ... and hospitality

## Relationships


Teach your child that everyone should be treated kindly, no matter how they behave or what they believe

## Relationships

Support your teenage child as s/he learns how to live as an 'exile and stranger'



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- 
- ▶ Make heart-to-heart conversations normal
  - ▶ Be open to any and all questions
  - ▶ Age-appropriate conversations

**BETTER A YEAR TOO  
EARLY THAN 5 MINUTES  
TOO LATE!**

## Communicating Well

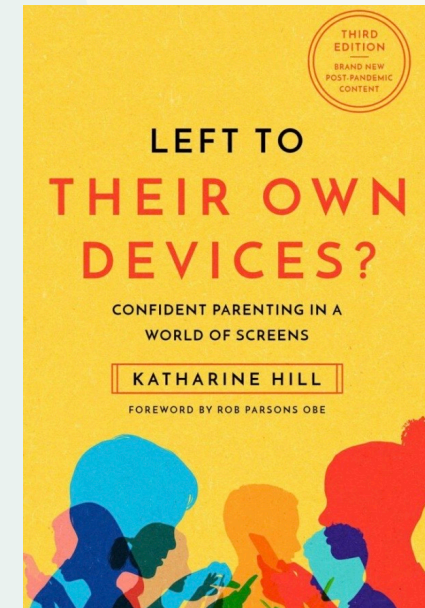


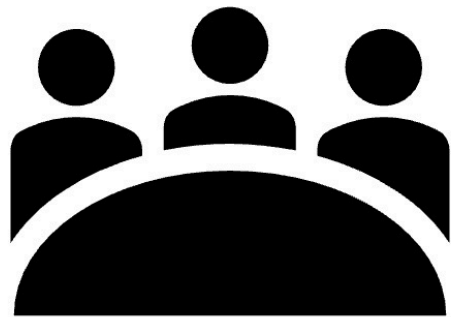
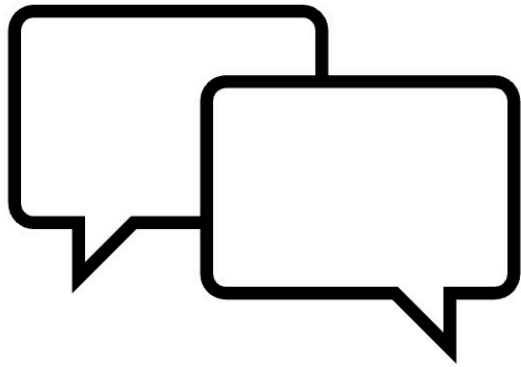
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# PROTECTIVE STEPS

- Schools
- Internet/social media
- Smartphones
- Develop critical thinking skills





# DISCUSSION

## QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

The 'gender revolution' makes parenting, and growing up, harder. What one thing could churches do better to help parents in their task?



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THE STRANGE NEW WORLD OF GENDER

# GUIDING THE NEXT GENERATION: HELPING THE GENDER-QUESTIONING CHILD



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# JAY'S STORY



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seXmatters



SECULAR  
WEBSITES







# Top Ten Tips

*For parents of trans-identified kids*



**LISTEN TO  
YOUR CHILD**



**INFORM YOURSELF**



**THE INTERNET  
ISN'T YOUR ALLY**



**ADVOCATE AT SCHOOL**



**CONSIDER  
YOUR BOUNDARIES**



**ADDRESS OTHER  
HEALTH NEEDS**



**BE PREPARED  
FOR THE LONG TERM**



**TALK ABOUT  
SEX AND GENDER**



**HELP YOUR CHILD  
LIVE A GOOD LIFE**



**LOOK AFTER  
YOURSELF**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT**  
***[www.bayswatersupport.org.uk](http://www.bayswatersupport.org.uk)***

**THE  
BAYSWATER  
SUPPORT  
GROUP**



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# FIRST REACTIONS



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# LEARN THE FACTS

- Vocabulary
- What have they been looking at?
- Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria
- Social transition, medical treatment
- Suicide risk & listen to detransitioners' stories

# COMMUNICATION IS KEY

- Listen to your child
- Ask questions, be inquisitive
- Avoid arguments
- Learn healthy disagreement
- What are underlying issues?



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# WHAT IS DRIVING THIS?

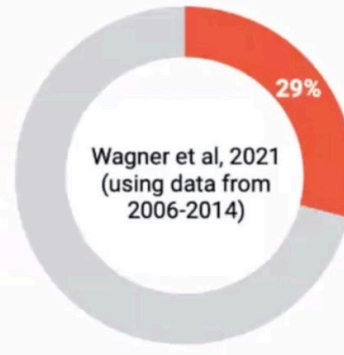
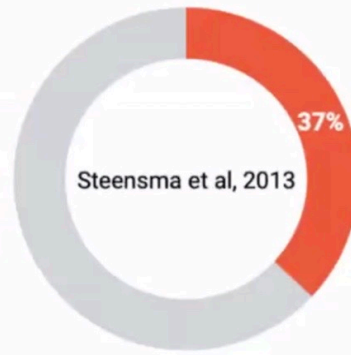
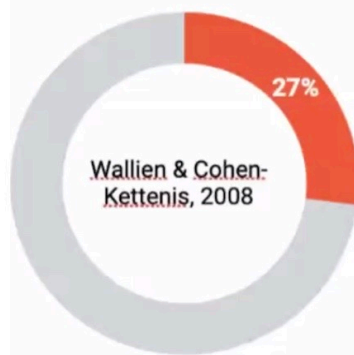
- Mental health ?
- Sleep/food exercise?
- Lonely?
- Sexuality?
- Autistic spectrum?



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# SOCIAL TRANSITION: Establish Boundaries

With no/limited social transition



With full social transition



Source: Teenagers and gender distress: what parents need to know – webinar on 16 May 2023 (Video available at [www.sex-matters.org](http://www.sex-matters.org))

# PRONOUNS



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# INTERNET

- Not your friend
- Websites are dose dependent
- Model how you use it
- Smart phones



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# HELPING YOUR CHILD

- Get away from the computer
- Get active
- Family time



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# LOOK AFTER YOURSELF



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# CHURCH: YOUTH GROUP LEADERS AND FRIENDS



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# SCHOOLS



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# DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF SCHOOL LIFE

- The classroom: Relationships and Sex Education
- School policies in relation to sex and gender
  - Supporting / safeguarding the gender-questioning child
  - School life (e.g. sports, washrooms, uniforms)

# Relationships and Sex Education

A guide for Christian parents in England



# RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION

GUIDE  
INCLUDES  
TIPS FOR ENGAGING WITH  
SCHOOLS

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# CHRISTIANS: LIVING IN SOCIETY



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# Posture towards society ....

Love ....

- Neighbour
- Stranger
- Enemy



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“... seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”

**JEREMIAH 29:7, 1 PETER 2:12**

# Principles to practice

- Conviction ... with sensitivity
- Compassion ... with respect
- Wisdom ... in handling relationships
- Faithfulness ...



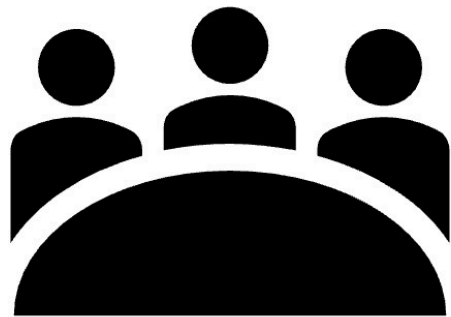
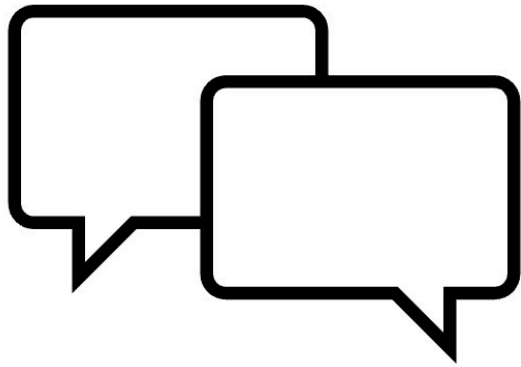
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# Models of faithfulness

- Elijah (1 Kings 18)
- Obadiah (1 Kings 18)
- Esther (Esther)
- Daniel (Daniel 1-2, 4-6)
- Paul exercising or forgoing his rights as a Roman citizen  
(1 Cor. 9, Acts 16:35-40)
- The slave who adorns the gospel (Titus 2:9-10)



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# DISCUSSION

## PREFERRED PRONOUNS?

If someone, male by birth, asks us to address them with female pronouns, or if someone asks us to supply our own preferred pronouns, what should we do and why?



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HEARING BECOMING SERVING

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