

Schools allowing children to 'identify as horses, dinosaurs and cats' as pupils 'communicate with animal noises'



Pupils have admitted classmates answering with animal noises can be distracting Unsplash



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Classes are being disrupted but teachers fear backlash over speaking out

Schools are increasingly being caught between a rock and a hard place over pupils identifying as animals and inanimate objects.

Pupils and teachers alike are aware that such self-identification can cause disruption, yet many do not voice their concerns for fear of being cancelled.

Secondary school children are being allowed to identify as cats, horses, dinosaurs and, in one instance, a moon, according to the Telegraph.

In some reported instances, classes have faced severe disruption as pupils insist on answering teacher's questions and communicating via animal noises.



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With the Department for Education issuing vague guidance to teachers to use their 'common sense' over self-identifying pupils, the issue has become a reputation minefield for staff.

The Safe Schools Alliance believe children self-identifying as animals should be treated as a 'red flag' by teachers, advising those in positions of responsibility to implement safeguarding.

Tracy Shaw, spokesperson for the Safe Schools Alliance, said teachers should be asking themselves: "What are these children looking at online? What forums are they on? What is happening in that child's life and who else is involved?"

However, Shaw acknowledged that teachers are treading on eggshells for "they become frightened of doing the wrong thing" after numerous recent controversies over gender identity.



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In its investigation, The Telegraph claimed it was "not difficult to find genuine examples of children in UK schools insisting on being addressed as animals."

The publication found one pupil at a secondary school in South West who insisted "on being addressed as a dinosaur," while another wears a cape and identifies as the moon.

In a particularly disruptive case, the newspaper spoke to a student in Wales who claimed a classmate had identified as a cat for three years.

The pupil complained: "When they answer questions, they meow rather than answer a question in English.

"And the teachers are not allowed to get annoyed about this because it's seen as discriminating."

"It's affecting other people and their education and everybody in their lessons. It's distracting to sit in a lesson and have someone meow to a teacher rather than answer in English, especially at secondary school age."

There is an oft blurred line between cosplay and self-identification, with many children instead adopting a 'fursona.'

Safer Schools - an 'ecosystem' created in partnership between Zurich Municipal and the INEQE Safeguarding Group, said of cosplay furies: "These characters are often created by the community members themselves, who take them on as a 'fursona' (an alternate persona) who interacts with other 'fursonas' in the community via roleplaying and art."

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"There have been recent rumours, claims and hoaxes about students within multiple UK schools identifying as cats and engaging in disruptive behaviours, such as crawling on all fours and demanding litterboxes be placed in toilets."

Last Friday, [two students who questioned their classmate 'identifying as a cat'](#) were called 'despicable' by their teacher.

The 13-year-old girl and her friend were rebuked by their teacher at Rye College, in East Sussex on Friday.

[GB News host Michelle Dewberry stunned](#) viewers by "identifying as a cat" in response to the teens being labelled "despicable."

The 43-year-old, who hosts GB News show Dewbs & Co between 6pm and 7pm from Monday to Friday, appeared somewhat different when she greeted viewers yesterday.

Dewberry wore cat ears, painted on whiskers and even added a feline nose as she covered the controversial case of a 13-year-old pupil challenging gender identification at a school in Sussex.

Speaking on her show, the former Brexit Party MEP said: "Meow, I've learnt something new today, everybody."

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