# Infant School Blasted for Displaying Pride Flags



Westmeads Community Infant School in Whitstable, Kent, faced backlash after displaying 11 Pride flags on its gates during Pride month. The infant school, which caters to 156 pupils aged four to seven, aimed to promote inclusivity. Conservative peer Dame Jacqueline Foster criticized the display as "wholly inappropriate" and called for the flags' removal, arguing that sex education for infants should be age-appropriate.

Head teacher Kirsty White defended the decision, highlighting that equity is a core school value. She emphasized that representation matters for every community member and aligned with British values. The controversy went viral when writer James Esses shared images of the flags on social media, accusing the school of "indoctrinating" young children.

The school received mixed reactions. Local Labour councillor Chris Cornell condemned the criticism as homophobia. Some parents supported the school's move, with mothers Olivia Thomas, Hayley Johns, and Marie Lewzey stating that inclusivity is crucial for their children's development.

Westmeads received a downgraded Ofsted rating from "outstanding" to "requires improvement" last summer, retaining a "good" score for behavior, personal development, leadership, and early years' provision. Inspectors noted that pupils are "happy and carefree," and the school's core values of love and kindness are well-understood.

The critical post has garnered over 200,000 views, with divided opinions about age-appropriate content in schools.