**FFT’s support for LGBTQ+ Gypsies, Roma and Travellers**

FFT aims to be an inclusive organisation, an approach which is rooted in our commitment to Equalities and Human rights.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are valued and welcomed within our organisation and in our services.

We recognise that LGBT people may hide their identity because of fear of rejection from their family and wider community and are not always treated with dignity and respect. This can seriously impact on health and wellbeing, and we support the right for people to be themselves, whoever they may be.

**Relationships education within RHSE**

The government has made relationships education compulsory in all schools, on the basis that children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and they need to know how to be safe and healthy both on and offline.

The objectives set out include making sure that young people understand what healthy relationships look like and how to navigate their personal lives in a positive, safe and healthy way.

It also provides pupils with the knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, including how to communicate their own boundaries and recognise the boundaries of others, staying safe online, and the differences between appropriate and inappropriate or unsafe contact. Schools are strongly encouraged to include the teaching of different family models and same-sex relationships.

**Working with parents**

Schools are required to have a written policy for RHSE and consult parents in developing and reviewing their policy. Schools are also advised that they should also ensure that the policy meets the needs of pupils and parents and reflects the community they serve.

Government guidance makes it clear that parents have a right to know what their children are being taught about healthy relationships, sex and development in school and are allowed to see the materials that are being used, including copyrighted material.

The guidance recommends that parents with concerns should speak to their headteachers, and schools should listen to these views.

**FFT’s approach**

At FFT, we support Gypsy Roma and Traveller children’s right to education, including their right to learn about healthy relationships in an age-appropriate way, so that they can develop healthy relationships and keep themselves and others safe.

Our approach is to encourage schools to follow the existing government guidance to consult parents and to reflect the community they serve. We would also encourage better support for parents to engage with schools, which we have found to be helpful in our casework.