

Don't say mum and dad: what do we want to teach?

On January 30th newspapers reported the formal launching of guidance by Schools Secretary Ed Balls advising teachers not to assume that their pupils have a "mum and dad". The guidance, produced for the Government by gay rights pressure group Stonewall says primary pupils as young as four should be familiarised with the idea of same-sex couples to help combat homophobic attitudes.

Faced with this news, we ask ourselves: what is school for? To educate or to indoctrinate? No one can deny that the family based on a man and a woman is a precious good and the fundamental nucleus of society. To maintain that every other type of arrangement is equivalent is to reduce the child to a guinea pig in a social science experiment. A school where the words "Mum" and "Dad" are outlawed and replaced by the generic word "parent" misunderstands reality and teaches lying. It substitutes the ontological truth of being a son or daughter with the ideology of relativism, where everything is acceptable as long as it is politically correct.

Don't say Mum and Dad any more: what a 'brilliant' idea. To protect a minority, we are supposed to discard the experience of motherhood, of fatherhood, of the sexuality of the majority and the heritage of our civilization regarding the family.

Tolerance and respect for the law cannot be taught by forbidding the use of the first words which a child learns to say, but by teaching (or attempting to teach) that each person has an infinite value and a destiny. These are things we no longer hear mentioned.

In the present cultural climate, which is affected by a pathological incapacity of recognizing reality we adopt the words of Benedict XVI, the great defender of freedom of education: "Already in a little child there is a great desire to know and understand, which shows itself in his or her continuous questions and requests for explanations. It would therefore be a poor sort of education that limited itself to giving notions and information, but left out the great question about truth, above all that truth which can be a guide in life."

Communion and Liberation UK