Parents are not alone

It would be wrong to think that only parents are calling for their parental rights and that no public voice is backing them...

1. Conservative leadership contender Esther McVey backs parents who want to remove their kids from sex education lessons. Ms McVey says:

“I’m being very clear: the final say is with the parents and if parents want to take their young children – that’s primary school children – out of certain forms of sex education, relationship education, then that is down to them...”

“I believe parents know best for their children and whilst they’re still children, and you’re talking there in primary schools, then really the parents need to have the final say in what they want their children to know.”

2. Prominent Conservative backbencher Sir Edward Leigh supports parental rights and believes they should be given unlimited right to withdraw their children form sex education. Sir Edward says:

“All previous Conservative Governments have given an untrammeled right to parents to remove their children from sex education.”

He implies this Government ought to do the same by removing restrictions to parental rights.

3. Labour MP Roger Godsiff says that four and five year olds are too young to learn about same sex relationships echoing parents’ concerns about age-inappropriateness of teaching LGBT issues at a young age. Mr Godsiff says:

“I would question the age appropriateness of making children as young as four aware of [LGBT+ people].”

“I have concerns about the age appropriateness of children of four and five being introduced to these ideas.”

4. Former barrister and co-editor of The Conservative Woman Laura Perrins believes parents should have the right to educate their children in line with their wishes. Ms Perrins says:

“Simply put, it is not the business of the State to force children to approve of certain adult relationships.”

“The fact that same-sex relationships and same-sex marriages exist is one thing. But ordering, mandating people, especially young children, to approve of such relationships is, simply put, outside the role and powers of a State education system. It is authoritarian and immoral.”
The truth is, prominent members of parliament (MPs) and others are supporting parental rights.

“...parents have a fundamental right to raise their children in their own moral values. That’s why parents have always been able to withdraw their children from sex education lessons. Yet now they are being denied the right to remove even small children from these deeply divisive and controversial ‘relationships’ lessons.”

“How can it be right for a five-year-old to be taught about LGBT identity when he or she doesn’t even understand what sexuality is? Is this not an outright assault on childhood innocence?”

Parents are the primary educators of their children.

5. Journalist and public commentator Melanie Phillips believes parents have the right to raise their children in line with their own values and that it is inappropriate to impose sex education and LGBT issues on primary-school children. Ms Phillips says:

6. Democratic Unionist Party MP Jim Shannon made clear during the Parliamentary debate on RSE that he supports parental rights. As a long-standing supporter of parental rights, he criticises the Government for limiting the right of withdrawal from sex education. Mr Shannon says:

“Government seem to have decided that headteachers, not parents now know best for children, which should not be the case. They seem simply not to trust parents, and it is a profoundly dangerous precedent to set.”

“... it is not right for headteachers or the state to press their values and morality on parents by not allowing them to withdraw their children from relationships and sex education.”

7. Leader of the House Andrea Leadsom believes parents should be able to choose when their children are taught about relationship & sex education as well as LGBT teaching. Ms Leadsom says:

“... it is right that parents should be able to choose the moment at which their children become exposed to that information.”

5. https://www.melaniephillips.com/schools-battle-zealots/