Why Do We Need Male Teachers?

The aim of this document is to provide males with some reasons to consider becoming a teacher.

- Children need to be taught by a range of different people, as school is meant to be a reflection of the world in general. At the moment this is not happening. A quarter of primary schools in the United Kingdom do not have a male teacher and the number of males teaching in secondary schools is dwindling.

- If pupils are taught mostly by female teachers there is a risk that young people could associate education with females solely. This could significantly limit the type of person that stays in school past the compulsory leaving age.

- All professions need a gender balanced workforce and this includes teaching. If pupils don’t come across a gender balanced workforce they may feel that teaching is only for a specific type of person.

- Recent studies show that parents want their children to be educated by both male and female teachers. They would welcome a change in the current gender imbalance.

- Male teachers can sometimes provide a different point of view. They may have different opinions about learning and teaching. These views could be valuable to pupils and other teachers alike.

- Male teachers have one thing that female teachers don’t. They were once young male pupils. Their personal experiences could provide ideas and innovations that education is currently missing out on.

- Children learn from good role models. Both male and female teachers can be good role models. However, it is possible that some pupils may respond better to male role models. They should be given the opportunity to access these.
• Some young people do not have any positive male figures in their lives. That is not to suggest that male teachers have to become a “father figure”, but they certainly can show young people what a responsible, caring and fun man looks like.

• Education has a responsibility to provide pupils with diverse learning experiences. A small part of this has to incorporate the type of teachers they are taught by.

• A big issue in education at the moment is male underachievement. It has been recognized that male teachers could have a potential role in helping to change this.

• Female and male teachers may approach teaching in different ways. Male teachers may be able to reach students who are disengaged in a way that female teachers can’t.

• A study conducted by the TDA found that 50% of male pupils were more likely to approach a male teacher about bullying or problems with school work. 51% admitted that they behave better with a male teacher and one in four boys claim their favourite teacher is a man.