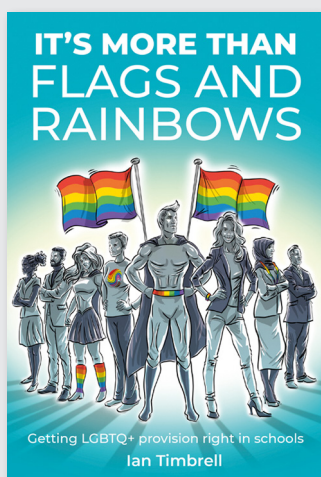


P R E S S R E L E A S E



"This book will be enormously helpful to those responsible for schools. Ian Timbrell offers a coherent approach with guidelines for decisions and advice on best ways forward, all with sensitivity and always in the best interests of young people."

Mick Waters, educationalist and author



It's More than Flags and Rainbows **Getting LGBTQ+ provision right in schools** By Ian Timbrell

ISBN: 9781781354285

Price: £18.99

Published by: Independent Thinking Press

Date of publication: June 2025

An inspirational handbook that provides educators with step-by-step guidance for creating truly inclusive schools where every child feels safe, seen and supported.

Scan to learn more:



How can we build truly inclusive schools?

Significant progress has been made in relation to LGBTQ+ rights in the last few decades, with the legalisation of gay marriage marking a major turning point. Despite this, for many LGBTQ+ students, the reality of school life remains challenging at best. Between 30% and 50% of LGBTQ+ young people are likely to have experienced bullying in schools, and they are twice as likely to experience depression, anxiety, and panic attacks compared with their peers.¹ From a recent rise in anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric in public discourse to debates over curriculum content, young people are still growing up in an environment where their identities are politicised and erased.

Even in schools that outwardly celebrate diversity, LGBTQ+ inclusive actions tend to be limited to token gestures or one-off assemblies which are insufficient and rarely tackle the root cause of homophobic bullying. In an age of political and ideological polarisation, it's more important than ever to establish a comprehensively inclusive environment in schools where every child feels safe, seen and supported; not just during Pride Month, but every day of the year.

As the founder of the not-for-profit organisation, *More Than Flags and Rainbows*, Ian Timbrell is a passionate advocate for LGBTQ+ inclusion in schools. Drawing on his personal journey and 20 years of teaching experience, Ian works with schools across the UK, distilling his lived and professional insights into practical strategies for creating safe, inclusive environments where everyone can thrive.

Ian's new book, *It's More Than Flags and Rainbows: Getting LGBTQ+ Provision Right in Schools*, is an inspirational handbook that helps schools develop the confidence and the know-how to embed inclusivity as a consistent and sustained part of school life. It gives teachers and leaders step-by-step guidance, enabling schools to plan strategically to establish an environment where all children and young people can freely express their authentic selves. Although the focus of the book is on LGBTQ+ diversity and inclusion, many of the principles in this book are applicable to most areas of diversity.

At the beginning of each chapter, Ian includes a vignette from his life story, offering context about how he arrived at his ideas, and also demonstrating how the issues tackled in the book appear in real-world settings. Written with warmth, passion and empathy, *It's More Than Flags and Rainbows* is both a rallying cry and a practical toolkit for change.

¹ Just Like Us, Positive Futures: How Supporting LGBT+ Young People Enables Them to Thrive in Adulthood (2023). Available at: <https://www.justlikeus.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Positive-Futures-report-by-Just-Like-Uscompressed-for-mobile.pdf>.

P R E S S R E L E A S E



Essential reading for headteachers, teachers, pastoral leads or anyone passionate about LGBTQ+ inclusion and diversity in schools.

"As a gay teacher who, like so many before him, had a torrid time at school, Ian writes with passion and knowledge in the hope of making sure that another generation does not have to suffer as he did."

Sue Sanders, she/her, professor emeritus, CEO of Schools OUT, co-founder of UK LGBT+ History Month

About the author

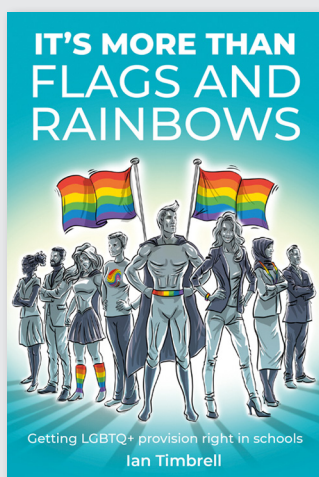


Ian Timbrell is the founder of More Than Flags and Rainbows, a not-for-profit organisation that supports schools and charities with LGBTQ+ inclusion. He is an Independent Thinking Associate and has delivered inspiring talks and workshops across the UK that empower educators to tackle homophobic bullying, embrace equity and foster inclusivity. Drawing on his personal journey and 20 years of teaching experience, Ian's debut title, *It's More Than Flags and Rainbows* provides schools with the knowledge and strategies to create meaningful, lasting change for LGBTQ+ inclusion.

Articles and interviews available

Ian is available for interview, expert comment or by-lined articles on a range of topics, such as:

- What does true LGBTQ+ inclusion look like in schools, and how can we move beyond tokenistic gestures?
- How can schools navigate LGBTQ+ inclusion in the current political and cultural climate?
- How can LGBTQ+ representation be meaningfully embedded into the curriculum across all subjects?



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