

5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

## Urgent Advisory To Muslim Parents

---

Asalaamu alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Many parents and concerned educators from our Muslim community have approached FIANZ for some guidance with respect to the forthcoming Pride Week which starts from 12 June. (<https://pride.school.nz/primary-school-activities/>). This event is being promoted at primary, intermediate and secondary schools.

As a response to the concerns, FIANZ recently consulted with respected Muslim educators, elders, youth and ulema to consider how we may help our parents and caregivers .

### **Schools Have a Choice Whether to Join Pride Week**

As a matter of information, it is important to note that schools have the choice to either participate or not to participate in this Pride Week. **Schools can decide if they want to register for this event or not.** It is a matter of choice for schools and it is not a Ministry regulation.

As a parent you can write or contact your school and make your views known. Schools have a duty to consult parents . ***We request all Muslim parents to take an active part in your local school and make your views known.***

### **What Can Parents and Caregivers Do?**

- 1) We suggest parents and caregivers contact the schools directly and share your concerns with the school principal , the school board and the class teacher. If your school has decided to participate in Pride Week, we have *attached optional letters which you can send to the school. The letters are suitable for primary and intermediate schools.*
- 2) Attached is some information on LGBTQI+ from Islamic perspective. Early next week we shall send you **more information** on this and related issues.
- 3) Join the **Muslim Parents Network** by sending your name and email to [info@fianz.com](mailto:info@fianz.com)  
In the near future FIANZ shall be pleased to resource such parent networks at local and regional levels.

May Allah swt guide us all to Seeratual Mustaqeem.

Wasalaam .

**FIANZ Community Advocacy Team**



## Awareness Kit



Islam on Sex and  
Intimacy



The LGBTQ Question



What are the risks of  
LGBTQ?



Prophet Lut PBUH



Parenting Tips



التربية الجنسية-أسئلة  
وأجوبة



Sexuality in Islam

**FOR PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS**

**IF YOUR SCHOOL HAS DECIDED TO HAVE PRIDE WEEK**

We have provided two options of letters you can send to the school Principal and the Chairperson of the School Board.

Date :

**Re: Expressing Concern over Schools' Pride Week Aotearoa**

Dear Principal and Chairperson of School Board,

Kia ora and Assalamu Alaikum (Peace be with you). We hope this letter finds you well. We are a group of parents from the Muslim community of [INSERT CITY/TOWN NAME HERE] who greatly appreciate the inclusive and respectful learning environment our school provides. However, we write to you today with significant concerns regarding the upcoming Schools' Pride Week Aotearoa.

At the outset we recognize and affirm the importance of diversity. We do however, hold serious concerns related to the age appropriateness of the themes and messaging to be presented during Pride Week at our school. In this respect we would be most grateful for additional information as clarification related to:

- How the decision to include School's Pride Week was reached?
- Was this matter considered by the Board? ( We would like minutes of the Board)
- Were the parent and school community consulted?
- On what basis was the theme and material considered to be age appropriate?
- Has this matter been reviewed through an ethnic / faith community lens?
- Have parent or community groups had an opportunity to review the theme and material?

As with other faiths, Islamic spirituality is rooted within its own beliefs , values and traditions. Therefore, to assist our Muslim children to develop a strong sense of self-assurance in their own identity and faith-culture we believe it is important that we share our views with you. Schools play a significant part in our children's life and from our faith/ethnic perspective we feel the message being conveyed has the potential to cause mental anguish and distress to our children and impact on their wellbeing. As you may be aware, our faith based tikanga provides spiritual guidance which forms the basis of our family, whānau and community. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to reconsider whether Schools' Pride Week Aotearoa is appropriate for our children.

It is important that genuine partnership and relationships are established between school and community with respect and trust working towards a shared goal. May we kindly suggest exploring other inclusive and social cohesion initiatives that might be more suitable for this age group and that parents be consulted on this? Our intention is to ensure that there are programmes focusing on broader life skills around managing differences and creating welcoming, mana-enhancing school environments. Such initiatives should prioritise creating links between the school and the community and forge a distinctive but inclusive approach to strengthening the identity of each child. Here again we would kindly request parental consultation.

In the event that our school should decide to proceed with Pride Week, we are formally seeking an alternative provision to be made for children. Alternatively, there are some parents who are considering keeping their children home during Pride Week. Such measures reflect the severity of our concerns but are far from the solution we desire, as they could disrupt our children's education and their sense of belonging within the school community.

We thank you for your consideration of our genuine concerns and look forward to further dialogue with you on this matter. Our underlying motivation in reaching out to you is to work towards protecting and enhancing our children's wellbeing through open dialogue and mutual understanding.

Ngā mihi and Wasalaam.

Your Name and Contact Information]

Date :

Dear Chairperson of Board and Principal

Asalaamu alaikum ( Peace be with you) and Kia Ora

I am a parent.

I understand that our school has decided to have Pride Week beginning from 12 July. I do not want my child to be exposed to the promotion being considered for Pride Week.

As a parent, I consider that the Pride Week message at our school is neither age appropriate nor does this align with our spirituality and faith-culture identity.

I understand that the school needs to have agreement of the Board for such events. As a parent, I have not been consulted. I have strong objection to my child being forced to accept the promotional message of Pride week, without any discussion or consultation with parents. When children's parents are not informed, engaged and consulted, this is tantamount being coerced to accept the decisions of others.

Different people have different values and behavior and this diversity is a reality in our society. I am fully in support of inclusiveness and diversity. The messages being promoted by the Pride Week does not align with our faith-culture identity and in this respect I don't want my child to suffer from confusion and mental anguish. The potential trauma needs to be recognized and respected by the school. In my view, this is a serious breakdown of the school-community communications.

Please advise what solutions you may offer to this issue. I look forward to hearing from you as a matter of urgency. I also wish to be assured that my child will not be subject to any repercussion as a result of this letter or not taking part in the Pride week promotion.

As you will note, the welfare and wellbeing of my child is of the utmost concern to me as a parent and I trust you will understand that this has been the primary motivation for this letter.

[Your Name and Contact Information]