

Issues Faced as a Transgender Person at St. Patrick's College

By Amilie Courtney

About Me

My name is Amilie Courtney. I am a 16-year-old transgender female currently attending St. Patrick's College Launceston, a school managed by Catholic Education Tasmania. I am in grade 10 this year and have been a student at this institution since the beginning of grade 7.

Bathrooms

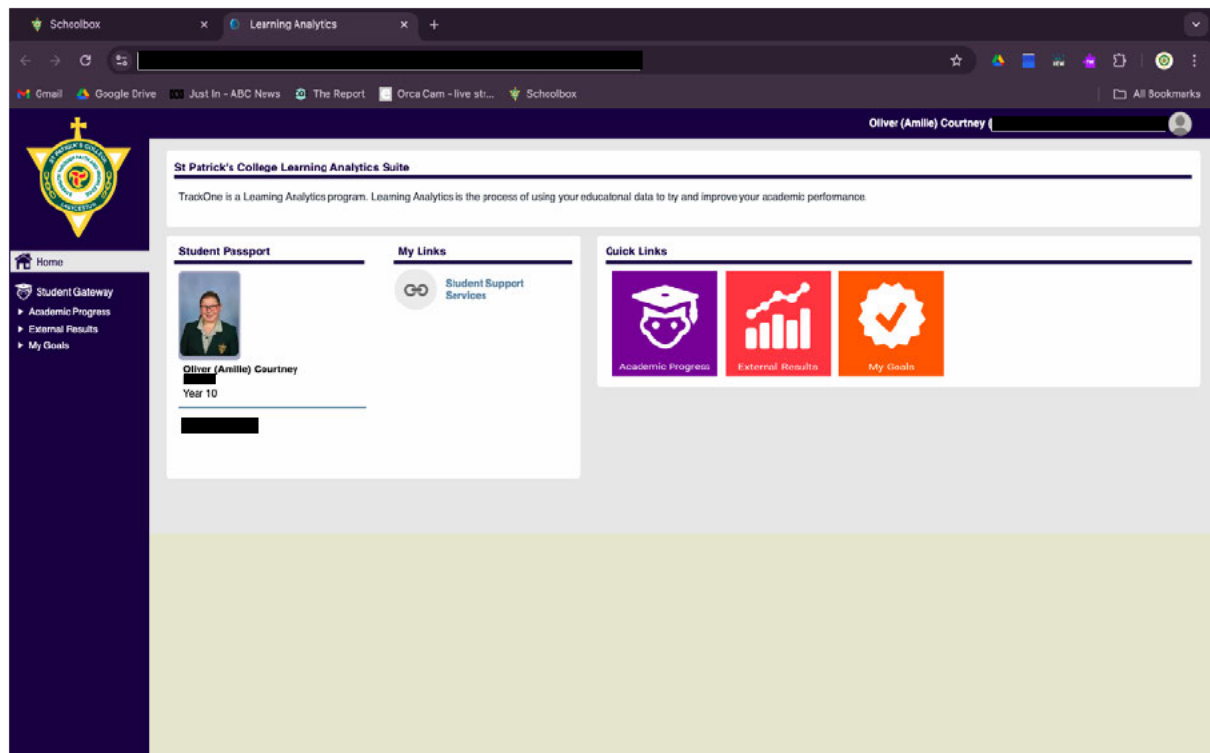
At St. Patrick's College, I am currently permitted to use the female bathrooms, with the stipulation that the toilet must have a solid door instead of a cubicle door. This accommodation was granted only halfway through grade 8. Prior to that, I was required to use the disabled/staff bathrooms.

Sports Uniform

On days when students have Physical Education, they are expected to change into their sports uniforms at the start of the lesson. However, I am not allowed to change in the female change rooms, which have cubicles. There is no unisex change room available, so I must wear my sports uniform to school.

Preferred Name

When I started grade 7, my birth name was listed on the attendance, rather than my preferred name. After raising this issue with the staff later in the term, they modified it to include my preferred name in brackets next to my birth name, which was still problematic. Eventually, I managed to have my preferred name, Amilie, replace my deadname on the attendance. However, this change was only reflected in the attendance records. My report cards continue to be issued under my deadname, despite repeated requests for the change. Additionally, the online platform where students set goals and check grades still displays my deadname (see attached screenshot). Every year at the beginning of the school year, I have to visit IT to request that my name be updated in the school's online education systems.



Bullying

Bullying has been a significant issue for me as a trans student at St. Patrick's College. When staff are informed, the response is almost always the same. Here is a key example of what typically happens:

In grade 9, I arrived at school and went to my homeroom as usual. Group A, with whom I had had previous issues, were playing a catch game. When one of the balls landed near me, the students in Group A began shouting my preferred name. When I ignored them, Boy A, who attended primary school with me, turned to Group A and said, "Call him Oliver, that's his real name." Group A then started shouting things like "Oliver, throw the ball here" and "Come on, Oliver." Upset, I reported the incident to the head of grade, who acknowledged that it was inappropriate. Later that day, he informed me that he had given the boys "a stern talking to." Despite this, I was forced to spend a two-hour bus ride with Group A later that week as we headed to school camp.

Camps

During school camps, students are usually placed in tent groups of about three or four people of the same gender. These groups prepare and organize the necessary supplies for the camp, such as tents and food. However, because I am transgender, the school does not allow me to be part of a camp group. Instead, I am assigned a tent by myself and have to provide everything on my own, which means I miss out on important bonding and friendship opportunities. At the campsite, the area is divided into two sections for safety—one for girls and one for boys. When I attend, a third section is added in a remote corner, away from the other tents, which further excludes me from group activities.

Athletic Carnivals

At St. Patrick's College, I am not allowed to participate in athletic carnivals because I am perceived to have a "physical advantage." This is incorrect, as I have been on puberty

blockers and hormone blockers the entire time I have attended the school. In some cases, it was suggested that I could compete in the boys' races, which was not an option I felt comfortable with.