

The short film in my opinion undermines past efforts by Southwark to support parents/carers working with schools, helping them to take responsibility for their moral obligations toward their child's welfare and education. The Parental Engagement review conducted under the last administration, challenged parents to be more accountable for their actions, highlighting the difference it could make to their child's future. In this film the parents are there purely to facilitate the desires of Danny. At fourteen he is already in a same-sex relationship, talking about his concerns when going into a bar. At no point does this film show him receiving any advice regarding the dangers of under-age drinking or the need to take precautions before becoming sexually active.

His parents, or indeed this film's refusal to challenge or inform him, or the viewers in any of these areas is totally irresponsible and could prove detrimental to their health, given what we already know about alcohol abuse and the Health Protection Agency's warnings about sexually transmitted infections soaring amongst young people. The 2002 Educational Act 'includes a provision (Section 175) requiring school governing bodies, local education authorities and further education institutions to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children'. In my opinion this film does not do that. I have similar concerns regarding the other films on this DVD, which I shall detail in a future report.

Children viewing this film would be encouraged to challenge their parents/carers who refused to endorse such potentially harmful under age practices. Even representatives from the City Council where the parade was due to take place made it quite clear in the film that they were opposed to 'teens joining in the extravagant boat show'. One commentator was very specific saying 'we want no part of this. We're talking about 11 year old's'. By allowing this to be shown in schools, what message is Southwark Council sending out to parents and carers? Further questions also need to be asked regarding who is monitoring this material, so as to protect the innocence of children from being abused or manipulated.

I would not want any of my children to watch this DVD and cannot, in good conscience recommend such divisive and pernicious material to other parents.

Colin Elliott

Parent Governor Representative