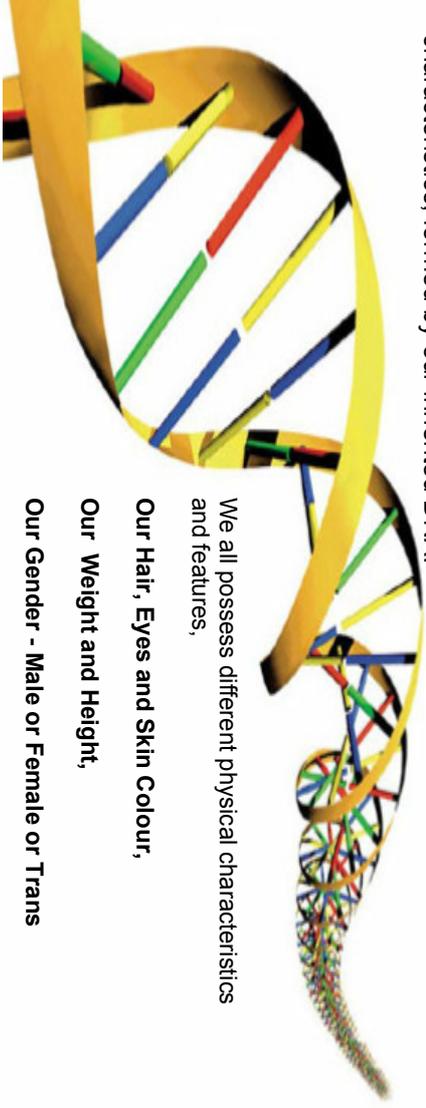




# Gender Awareness

We are all unique individuals created by a combination of our parents genetic characteristics, formed by our inherited DNA.



We all possess different physical characteristics and features.

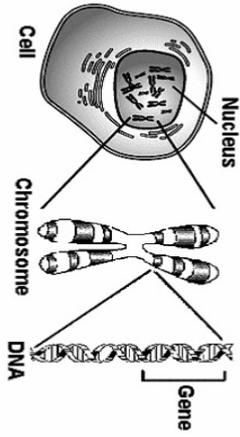
**Our Hair, Eyes and Skin Colour,**

**Our Weight and Height,**

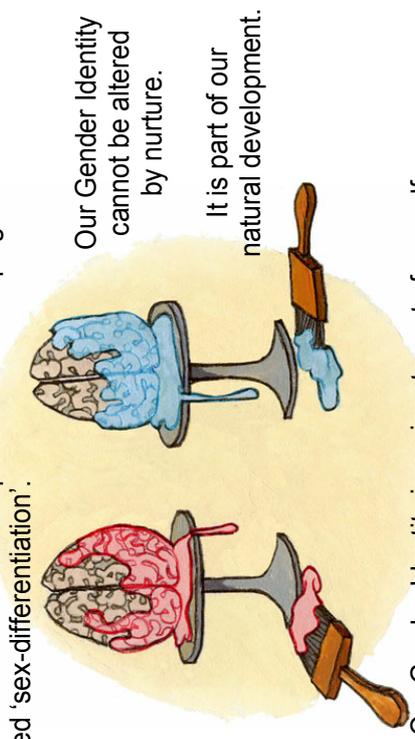
**Our Gender - Male or Female or Trans**

These characteristics are determined by our Individual DNA / Chromosomes which form the building blocks (Human Cells) of our genetic make up.

During the early stages of our life combinations of human cells and chemicals called hormones combine and act on each other to develop the characteristics we see.



Our Gender Identity is an innate part of our self just like the colour of our eyes, hair and skin



We all know that boys and girls are different, boys and girls look different, they often behave differently, and they feel different. Outside appearances of the gender of our bodies, the genitalia, are the indicators we all recognise, but internally too, the organs of reproduction are different, and, importantly, so are small areas of the brain. The process of development into 'male' and 'female' is called 'sex-differentiation'.

## Gender Variance

Gender is usually defined by the binary model of Male or Female as determined at birth by the visible sex characteristics. This method of determining gender is usually correct, but sometimes incorrect choices are made as the visible characteristics do not match the persons predisposed gender.

Occasionally the gender of a person is in conflict with their appearance, there is a variance to the binary male or female model. It is generally understood that chromosomes and the chemical messengers known as hormones can act on cells to create people who have male or female, or both male and female characteristics.

Some people, as they grow up, become aware that they are different from the gender given to them at birth. They may feel they are somewhere between male or female, or they may feel they are the opposite gender, or they may have no feelings about their gender at all. This feeling is called Gender Identity.

All these feelings are OK, it is part of growing and understanding who you are.

Gender Identity is not linked to sexual attraction or sexual orientation.

People who change their appearance to match their gender identity are called Transgender people or Transsexuals.

