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## Sex in Class, review: 'educational'

This lively and unabashed film should be shown in every GSCE class in the country, says Jasper Rees

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★★★★★



Goedele Liekens and her Sex in Class pupils, who took a two week course Photo: Handout/Channel 4

By Jasper Rees  
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 55 Comments

**Goedele Liekens** is a Belgian sex educator. Thanks to people like her, teenage girls in the Low Countries can draw an accurate diagram of a vagina. In the UK, seven out of 10 of teenage girls have no idea where the clitoris is. British **sex education in schools** is an oxymoron. It focuses on sexual health and entirely bypasses sexual pleasure.

So hats off to Hollins Technology College in Accrington, which invited the likeable Liekens to run an intensive and bracingly explicit crash course for 13 volunteers aged 15 and 16. In **Sex in Class** (Channel 4) she found that the state has subcontracted the tricky subject out to the porn industry with its phallocratic norms. The heart sank as bratty lads expressed revulsion for female pubic hair and socratically explained where – and indeed why – a young man may legitimately spread his seed without asking first. Liekens's task was twofold: to persuade the boys to unlearn the macho disrespect of women they'd picked up from distorted porno scenarios, while educating the girls to believe that they had a right to a voice in the bedroom. They were all given homework: the boys took home shaving kits to discover just how

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uncomfortable self-depilation can be, while the girls were given hand mirrors and **encouraged to explore themselves**.



**Belgian sexologist Goedele Liekens**

Was Britain ready to go Belgian? The school's sceptical teachers were won over. Meanwhile, Liekens went to London to see if she could get sexual pleasure made a GCSE subject. She met the chairman of the parliamentary select committee on sex education to lament British ignorance of the clitoris. A computer programme recording their conversation interrupted with a robotic voice: "I don't know what that means." It's going to be an uphill battle.

There could have been more information about how much sex these kids really have (as opposed to claim to have). And it would have been helpful to know if porn really is less influential in Belgium. In the mean time, this lively and unabashed film should be shown in every GSCE class in the country, to educate the educators as well as their students. By the end the boys were showing much more respect to the girls. And when one girl eventually found the courage to put a boy in his place, you wanted to cheer her to the heavens.

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