



**‘Some people are gay.
Get over it!’**

**Tackling homophobic bullying and
language in our school**



Why are we talking about homophobic bullying and language today?

- We don't tolerate any use of homophobic language or behaviour in this school
- All students should feel safe at school and be able to fulfil their potential
- We all need to be prepared for living, working or studying alongside a range of people, including gay people, now and when we leave school



Why are we talking about homophobic bullying and language today?

- We need to know what our rights are and what our responsibilities are
- In our school we celebrate difference and the contribution that all people make to our school and wider society
- Our School is a Stonewall School Champion



What does homophobia mean?

- A fear, hatred or dislike of people who are or are perceived to be gay
- Treating people less favourably or unfairly because they are, or people think they are, lesbian, gay or bisexual.



What is sexual orientation?

- **Sexual orientation** – describes who we are attracted to
- **Gay** – a man or woman who is attracted to the same sex
- **Lesbian** – a woman who is attracted to other women
- **Bisexual** – someone who is attracted to both men and women
- **Heterosexual/Straight** – someone who is attracted to the opposite sex



Homophobic bullying in Britain's schools

- **Over half** of young lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils have experienced homophobic bullying
- **96 per cent** hear homophobic language such as 'poof' or 'lezza'
- **99 per cent** hear 'that's so gay' or 'you're so gay'



The School Report, Stonewall 2012



HOMOPHOBIC BULLYING CAN AFFECT ANYONE





What does homophobic bullying look like?

- Verbal abuse
- Gossip
- Intimidating looks
- Ignored or isolated
- Physical abuse
- Stealing property
- Cyberbullying/bullying by phone
- Death threats
- Any others?



What about outside of school?

- The law takes homophobic incidents very seriously





How does homophobic bullying and language affect others?

- Affects school work
- Some pupils change their plans for after school
- Affects how people feel about themselves
- Some students may even harm themselves or try to take their own life
- How else might it affect others?



That's so gay!

- We all need to take responsibility for the language we use and how it might affect others
- Even if you don't mean to cause offence, using 'gay' to mean rubbish makes gay people, and those with gay friends and family, feel that others may think they, or their family are rubbish



THIS IS A SCHOOL BAG
It may be too heavy and falling apart but...



IT IS NOT 'GAY'



THIS IS A PEN

**It may be leaking ink and really old
but...**



IT IS NOT 'GAY'



What you can do as students

- Remember – homophobic bullying affects everyone
- Watch your language!
- Be a supportive friend
- Report bullying, don't be a bystander
- Get hold of our 'Some people are gay. Get over it!' posters, potcards and stickers – **www.stonewall.org.uk/resources**
- Join Stonewall's Youth Volunteering Programme if you're 16-21
- Hold awareness raising or fundraising events for Stonewall

WELCOME TO YOUNG STONEWALL

THE SITE FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE TO FIND OUT ABOUT ISSUES AFFECTING LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL PEOPLE AT HOME, AT WORK AND AT SCHOOL

[FIND OUT MORE](#) 



Quick Information



Stonewall's latest appeal

We're raising funds for our international work



Your rights at school

Find out how schools can tackle homophobic bullying



Trouble at home?

Many LGBT young people face housing problems

Things to do

Speak Out

LGB? 11 to 19? Tell us what life's like in your school or college

University Guide

Check out our updated guide to gay friendly uni's before you submit your UCAS form

Tell us your story

Calling all budding writers to contribute to our new Your Space section!

Youth e-bulletin signup

[GO](#)




University Guide

Gay by Degree 



Starting Out:

LGB career guide 



Have you found work through @stonewalluk's Proud Employers? <http://t.co/Qjf7LaF6> If so, please get in touch - info@stonewall.org.uk

Posted about 17 hours ago

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Further information

www.stonewall.org.uk – The lesbian, gay and bisexual equality charity.

www.youngstonewall.org.uk – Stonewall's website for young people