

# Norfolk Schools Survey for LGBT History Month - February 2015

## What is the Norfolk Schools Survey for LGBT History Month?

The survey is designed to find out about the extent of homophobia in schools in Norfolk. The survey has been sent to all schools. However, this is the second year we have run this survey and last year over 1000 secondary pupils took part and 100 primary pupils took part. We want to give young people a chance to share their experience of homophobic language and bullying, so please feel free to direct young people you work with to complete the survey.

The questions are based on the information that Ofsted asked in previous Section 5 guidance 'Exploring school's actions to prevent homophobic bullying'. These questions no longer appear separately but are still relevant. The questions have also been informed by surveys used in other parts of the country, such as Hertfordshire's HABI survey.

There are two surveys – one for children in years 5 and 6 (ages 9-11), and one for young people in years 7 – 11 (ages 11-16). The survey for children in years 5 and 6 does not include any questions about transphobia.

The results will help us understand:

- how much homophobic and transphobic language is used in schools.
- what pupils think is acceptable language and what they consider offensive or bullying.
- the extent of homophobic and transphobic bullying.
- what pupils think of what their school teaches them about the lives of gay, bi-sexual and transgender people.
- the extent to which homophobic and transphobic language is challenged by teachers and pupils.
- what pupils think their school could do to tackle homophobic and transphobic bullying.

The surveys are online questionnaire which should take between 10 and 15 minutes to complete, depending upon the child's / young person's literacy level and experience. They will be available to complete between Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of February and Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2015.

## Step by step guide

**1. Before you undertake the survey** – you should ensure that you have the right consent to complete this type of survey. You may need consent from parents / carers, as well the child / young person.

**2. Completing the survey** – the survey can be completed as a stand-alone activity or as a starting point to discuss homophobic (in primary schools) and homophobic, biphobic and transphobic (in secondary schools) bullying issues. It can be completed as a group activity or by individuals. It is strongly recommended that the adult running the activity looks at the survey before it is completed. **Please see the attached PDF versions of the surveys.**

**3. Select participants from years 5 – 11 (ages 9-16)** and provide access to an internet enabled computer so they can complete the survey individually.

**4. Brief the children and young people** – the briefing should include a broad outline of the purpose of survey. You can use the wording in the introduction of the survey – please see the attached pdf of the survey. Please note we have deliberately avoided giving the definition of bullying before they have completed the questionnaire. This is intentional as we want them to be honest in their responses and so that the data is more accurate. The definitions of bullying, homophobic bullying and transphobic bullying are included towards the end of the survey.

The briefing should also include how long the survey will take to complete and reassurance of the participant's anonymity. They should be made aware that participation is voluntary and they may choose not to answer some of the questions, but the benefits of taking part should also be stressed.

### **5. Log-on to the right survey:**

This one is for pupils in years 5 and 6 (ages 9-11):

[www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Primary-School-LGBT-2015](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Primary-School-LGBT-2015)

This one is for pupils in years 7 to 11 (ages 11-16):

[www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Secondary-School-LGBT-2015](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Secondary-School-LGBT-2015)

The only question that requires an answer is on the first page about which school the child / young person attends. Please note that there is an option at the bottom of the drop down menu for children and young people that are not currently in school.

**6. After they have completed the survey** – you might want to talk to them about bullying, their understanding of homophobia (in a primary) and homophobia, biphobia and transphobia (in a secondary school), as well how they can challenge the word 'gay' or other inappropriate language.

You could take the opportunity to discuss that it is OK to use the word 'gay' to describe someone who is gay or lesbian and to use terms like bisexual or transgender when appropriate. We want children and young people to feel confident to respond if they hear someone using inappropriate language. The survey includes some phrases that pupils can use if they hear inappropriate language.

### **Primary school pupils can use:**

- "In this school, we don't use language like that. We try to be kind to everyone."
- "How would you like it if someone called you names like that?"
- "What do you mean by 'that's so gay!'?"
- "Gay is a word we use to describe people who love people of the same sex, not a nasty word to use against people."
- "I'm really sad to hear you talk like that. I hoped you knew it was important to be kind to everyone."

- "I don't like you using language like that."

**Secondary school pupils can use:**

- "In this school, we don't use language like that. There is nothing wrong with being gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender."
- "That kind of language is homophobic/transphobic and you know it's against school policy to make homophobic/transphobic remarks. Homophobia and transphobia are as bad as racism and sexism."
- How would you like it if someone called you names like that?"
- "What do you mean by "that's so gay!/lezzies?"
- "You wouldn't say that someone's trainers are so 'black', would you? So it's not acceptable to say that they're so 'gay' either."
- "Gay is a word we use to describe people who love people of the same sex, not a nasty word to use against people."
- "I'm really disappointed to hear you talking like that. In this school we treat everyone with respect and it is wrong to use homophobic and transphobic language."
- "I don't like you using language like that. I think it's offensive."

The final page of the survey encourages participants to seek help if they have experienced bullying. You may also wish to reiterate: the Childline number, CyberMentors website (for online peer support), Stonewall's youth website and BLAH (a local group for LGBT young people). This is important because as the survey is anonymous it is not possible to link participants with particular remarks and to offer appropriate follow-up.

**7. The results** – We will share the results with you in June. Data will be processed and reported safely in accordance with Norfolk County Council's data protection policy.

**Who can I talk to about the survey?**

If you'd like more information about the survey and see results from last year's surveys, please contact Rita Adair on 01603 307567 (mobile: 07917 215202) or [rita.adair@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:rita.adair@norfolk.gov.uk).

If you have any technical difficulties completing the survey, please contact Chris Williams on [chris.williams2@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:chris.williams2@norfolk.gov.uk) or 01603 495107.