

LGBT History Month

Workshop: How do we tackle Homophobia in schools?

Tuesday 26th February 2013

The Stonewall Report 2012 proves that Homophobic bullying continues to be endemic in Britain's schools. **More than half** (55 per cent) of lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils have experienced direct bullying. The use of homophobic language is a particular issue. **Almost all** (99 per cent) gay young people hear the phrases 'that's so gay' or 'you're so gay' in school and **ninety six per cent** of gay pupils hear homophobic language such as 'poof' or 'lezza'.

Homophobic bullying has a profoundly damaging impact on young people's school experience. **One in three** (32 per cent) gay pupils experiencing bullying change their future educational plans because of it and **three in five** say it impacts directly on their school work. Gay people who are bullied are at a higher risk of suicide, self-harm and depression.

Only half of gay pupils report that their schools say homophobic bullying is wrong, but reports prove that a) teachers want to be given training and advice on how to tackle homophobia in their classrooms and b) at schools when they do LGBT students feel much more confident at reporting issues. The NUT is dedicated to ensuring that teachers are given this professional support.

On Tuesday 26th February, Norfolk NUT will be hosting a workshop on "Tackling Homophobia in Schools". This will be a practical workshop mainly aimed at teachers and students but open to everyone interested. The main speaker will be Tony Fenwick - co chair of LGBT History Month and included in last year's IOS Pink List on the most inspirational LGBT people in the country. The meeting will be chaired by local LGBT activist and teacher Nick O'Brien and will be used to launch a Prevalence of Homophobia Survey across Norfolk Schools.

**The meeting which will be held at Bignold Primary School will start at 5pm. Refreshments will be available.
(Wessex Street, NR22SP)**