



# The “Mixing it up” activity

## AIMS:

1. To encourage students to think about how society has expectations in relation to how men and women behave.
2. To see the link between these expectations and bullying.
3. To discuss ways in which to tackle these expectations in school and in the outside world.

# Role play #1



A girl whose appearance is quite masculine has been seen holding hands with another girl at school over the lunch break. She quickly let go of her partner's hand when she saw she was watched by a group of fellow students. They make fun of her when she gets back from lunch.

Characters: the girl whose appearance is quite masculine, her partner and the students who make fun of her.

# Role play #2



A new male student has been admitted into your school. His appearance is different than the way boys' appearances usually are in your school (e.g. the way he dresses, the way he speaks, etc.).

During a class one of the teachers makes comments on the new student's appearance in front of all his classmates. The teacher even seeks approval from the classmates and they all approve except for one student who says that it is the right of every student to choose how he appears. The boy also protests and says that it has never been a problem before.

Characters: the male student whose appearance is different from the norm, the teacher, the classmates who giggle and the classmate who expresses a different view.

# Points for Reflection:

- Is it a problem for a girl to look masculine in our school? Why? Or why not?
- Is it a problem for a boy to appear differently in our school? Why? Or why not?
- How are girls supposed to look and act? Why?
- How are boys supposed to look and act? Why?
- Has it always been always like this?
- Is it OK to insult someone because of the way they look? Why? Or why not?
- How would you feel if someone insulted you or beat you because of the way you look?
- What can be done in the school if a student is bullied because of the way they look?



# Points for Reflection:

- Do you know what the words “gay”, “lesbian”, “bisexual”, “transgender” and “straight” mean? Can you explain what they mean?
- Does a girl/woman who is a lesbian or is bisexual always looks masculine and acts like a boy/man?
- Does a boy/man who is gay or bisexual always looks like a girl (effeminate) and act like a girl/woman?



# To conclude:

- Just because a boy/man looks like a girl and acts like a girl/woman doesn't mean he is gay or bisexual;
- Just because a girl/woman acts like a boy/man doesn't mean she is a lesbian or bisexual;
- There is no reason why they should be bullied based on what they are or what we assume they are.



# Want to find out more?

- Norwich Pride is always on the last weekend of July. It's from the LGBT community for everyone. For more info – [www.norwichpride.org.uk](http://www.norwichpride.org.uk)
- Coming out is not always easy but there are people to help. Blah is a support service for young LGBT people or those questioning their sexuality – [www.norfolklgbtproject.co.uk](http://www.norfolklgbtproject.co.uk)

