

Celebrating LGBT History Month February 2010
Challenging Homophobia – how can schools do it?
The Cube, Forum, Norwich
Friday 12th February 9.30 – 11.30 am.

Homophobia is a dislike or fear of someone who is lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). In its most destructive form it involves active victimization.

Homophobia – why should we care in schools?

Research by Stonewall in 2007 in their School Report found that of 1145 Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual young people who completed the survey:

- 68% of young LGB people experience homophobic bullying in Britain's schools (see further information below)
- Three quarters of schools do not say that homophobic bullying is wrong in their school. In those that do say it is wrong, young people are 60% more likely not to have been bullied
- 58% of pupils never report homophobic bullying. If they tell a teacher, 62% of the time nothing is done
- Half of teachers fail to respond to homophobic language when they hear it

The impact on young people's mental health is devastating. One research study found that 50% of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) women & men who had been bullied at school contemplated self-harm or suicide; 40% attempted self-harm at least once; another study found that more than 20% of LGB women and men who have been bullied at school attempted suicide.

So LGBT History Month offers a chance for your school to take steps to do something to support these young people. We know that Ofsted will be asking about homophobic bullying in your SEF. As a school you can no longer ignore this issue. Our workshop will look at:

1. Where your school is currently at in terms of tackling homophobia
2. Enable you to discuss with others ways of addressing sensitive issues
3. Hear directly from Sue Sanders, Co-Chair Schools Out and LGBT History Month about the issues and what schools can do
4. See Stonewall's DVD 'Spell it Out' which shows how school staff can tackle homophobia in their schools
5. Provide examples of good practice hearing directly from Nick O'Brien, Teacher at Neatherd High school
6. Discuss the DCSF Homophobic bullying guidance with Rita Adair, Senior Educational Psychologist

To confirm your place please book with Heather Haycox –
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