

Contextual Safeguarding Factsheet

LGBTQ Young People

Understanding the context of young people's lives will greatly improve your capacity to respond to their needs. This factsheet has been developed from statistics found in national reports. It provides you with an integral understanding of the experiences of LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer/Questioning) young people in schools.

Overview

- There is likely to be at least **2 LGB pupils per class**, and 1 trans pupil in each year group¹
- **52%** of LGBTQ pupils **hear homophobic slurs** 'frequently' or 'often' at school²
- **41%** of youth who experienced homophobic bullying said that it led them to **attempt or consider ending their lives**³
- **45%** of LGBTQ pupils who are bullied **never tell anyone** about the bullying⁴
- **68%** of LGBTQ pupils report that teachers 'sometimes' or 'never' **challenged homophobic language** when they hear it⁵
- More than **four in five trans** young people have **self-harmed**, as have three in five lesbian, gay and bi young people who aren't trans⁶
- More than **two in five trans** young people have attempted to **take their own life**, as have one in five lesbian, gay and bi students who aren't trans⁷
- **Almost half** (45%) of all LGBTQ pupils **still face bullying** at school (Stonewall 2017)^{8w}

Tips on creating a healthy environment

- >> **Include references** to (HBT) homophobic, biphobic, and transphobic bullying in your **school's anti-bullying policy**
- >> **Support staff** to identify and confidently **tackle homophobic bullying** including training days
- >> Make **time for positive conversations** about issues of sexual orientation and gender identity
- >> Provide **information and signposting** for students where appropriate
- >> Use noticeboards to **showcase famous LGBTQ role models**

References

¹https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/an_introduction_to_supporting_lgbt_young_people_-_a_guide_for_schools_2015.pdf

²<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/media/lgbt-facts-and-figures>

³https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/539682/160719_REPORT_LGBT_evidence_review_NIESR_FINALPDF.pdf

^{4&5}https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/the_school_report_2017.pdf

^{6&7}<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/media/lgbt-facts-and-figures>

⁸https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/the_school_report_2017.pdf

Glossary

Bisexual

Usually refers to a person attracted to both genders (not usually equally).

Cis/Cisgender

A term used to describe someone whose gender is the same as the sex that was assigned at birth.

Coming out

When a person chooses to tell others in their life about their sexual orientation or gender identity. Usually happens once, but also happens when an LGBTQ person meets someone new.

Cross-Dresser

The act of dressing in the opposite gender's clothes, this can be a form of self-expression and does not necessarily mean a person is trans.

Deadnaming

When a person continues to use a trans person's birth name, after they have transitioned. Usually used to bully and degrade someone.

Gay

Usually refers to a person attracted to the same sex (usually men but sometimes women).

Gender Identity

A person's sense of their 'gender' this can refer to our feelings and appearances of 'masculinity' or 'femininity'. This can be the same or different than the gender we were assigned at birth.

Gender non-Binary

An identity category used for someone who doesn't fit clearly into either male or female.

Gender-Fluid/Gender-Queer

An identity category used by someone who has no fixed gender that is likely to fluctuate or change. They may have both masculine and feminine (or neither) traits when expressing their gender.

Gender

Refers to our appearance, mannerisms and expected social behaviours. (Note: It's possible that biological sex and gender identity do not match).

Heteronormativity/Heterosexism

The idea that heterosexual relationships and attraction are mainly between opposite sex partners. Also, the assumption that everyone is heterosexual, and that these relationships are more acceptable, normal or even preferred.

Heterosexual/Straight

Someone who is attracted romantically, sexually and emotionally to a member of the opposite sex.

Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (HBT)

The irrational fear and hatred of people, identities and behaviours. Can include negative attitudes, discrimination and violence toward LGBTQ people.

Intersex

Someone who was born with variations in primary sex characteristics incl. genitals, chromosomes and sex hormones. Their bodies do not usually fit standard medical definitions of male or female.

Lesbian

Usually refers to same sex attracted women.

LGBTQ

Umbrella term for 'Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Trans and Queer or Questioning'.

Outing

When an LGBTQ person's sexual orientation and/or gender identify is disclosed publicly without their knowledge or consent.

Pansexual

An attraction to a person of any sex or gender.

Passing

When a trans person is 'perceived' to be the gender they are comfortable in.

(Gender) Pronouns

Words used to refer to a person incl. he/she/they and his/hers/theirs note some people will use gender neutral pronouns (it's always better to ask for preferred pronouns).

Queer

Can be seen as offensive by some but has been reclaimed by others, refers to feelings of 'otherness' or different identities, is considered less restrictive than LGBTQ.

Questioning

When a person is reflecting on their sexual and/or gender identity. This is a normal experience for all young people, as they pass through puberty.

Sex

Our biological sex is determined by our bodies and hormones. For some of us it's possible that our biological sex (body/hormones) and gender (appearance/mannerisms) do not match. This is called being trans.

Sexual orientation

Sexual orientation is used to describe a person's sexual or romantic attraction to another person – sometimes people call this sexuality. People can be attracted to the same sex as themselves or the opposite. They can also be attracted to one or more sex.

Trans

Preferred umbrella term that refers to both transgender and transsexual (these are both different).

Transgender

Refers to someone whose gender identity differs than the one assigned to them at birth.

Transition

The process of changing gender or sex, note this starts as a social transition (changing names, pronouns, clothes etc.). Medical transition refers to surgery to help with transition or 'confirmation'.

Transsexual

Considered outdated, it used to refer to people who have undergone gender reassignment surgery. Note that not all trans people want or desire to undergo surgery.