

Identity-Based Bullying

It is never OK for someone to be bullied because of their sexuality or gender identity

The following Glossary of terms from RESPECT Guidelines may be useful:

LGBT: a collective name for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Bisexual: a man or woman who is romantically, sexually and/or emotionally attracted to people of either sex.

Coming Out: a term used to describe the process where a person realises that they are LGBT and may begin to disclose this aspect of their identity to others.

Gay: a man or woman who is romantically, sexually and/or emotionally attracted to people of the same sex, most commonly used by men.

Gender Identity: a person's internal feeling of being male or female, regardless of the sex listed on their birth certificate.

Homophobic bullying: bullying that is based on actual or perceived sexual orientation. It is a type of identity-based bullying.

Lesbian: a woman who is romantically, sexually and/or emotionally attracted to women.

Sexual Orientation: refers to an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attractions to men, women or both sexes. Three sexual orientations are commonly recognised – heterosexual (straight), homosexual (gay or lesbian) and bisexual.

Transgender: refers to a person whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from the sex assigned to them at birth.

Transphobic bullying: is bullying that is based on actual or perceived gender identity. It is a type of identity-based bullying

[The DES Anti Bullying Procedures for Primary & Post Primary schools \(2013\)](#) tell us that:

1.4.1 The education and prevention strategies that the school will implement **must** be documented in the anti-bullying policy and **must** explicitly deal with the issue of cyber-bullying and identity-based bullying including in particular, **homophobic** and **transphobic** bullying.

Bullying is defined as unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical, conducted by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time. These procedures make clear that this definition includes cyber-bullying and identity-based bullying (such as **homophobic bullying** and racist bullying).

6.5.4 Initiatives and programmes focused on developing pupils' awareness and understanding of bullying, including its causes and effects, should deal explicitly with the issue of identity-based bullying and in particular **homophobic** and **transphobic** bullying. For example, the inclusion of LGBT posters on notice boards, discussions with parents about specific statements of welcome and respect for LGBT members of the school community, teaching the Social, Personal, Health Education (SPHE) resource, *Growing Up LGBT* and participating in LGBT awareness events are just some of the ways in which a school can address homophobic and transphobic bullying.

Anti- Bullying Policy

The policy template on page 41 of the Anti- Bullying Procedures (2013), Section 5, requires that every school identify the strategies they will implement, specifically aimed at cyberbullying, homophobic and transphobic bullying. (See Section 6.5 of the Anti- Bullying Procedures for Primary & Post Primary Schools)

The requirements above from the DES Procedures highlight that primary schools must deal with the issue of homophobic bullying.

To address this, the following resources may be useful for teachers

 <p>The Stay Safe Programme</p>	<p>Stay Safe: The Stay Safe programme, which is a mandatory programme in Primary schools and taught in its entirety across all class levels deals with Identity based bullying in Topic 2, Lesson 3 <i>Other Types of Bullying</i> in both the 3rd/4th class and 5th/6th class manuals. See http://www.staysafe.ie/</p>
 <p>All Together Now</p>	<p>All Together Now: An educational awareness programme on Homophobic & Transphobic Bullying in Primary Schools By Dr. Bernie Collins Dr. Seline Keating & Prof. Mark Morgan https://www.pdst.ie/sites/default/files/All%20Together%20Now%20Educational%20Resource%20LGBT_0.pdf</p>
 <p>Respect Guidelines</p> <p>Respect</p>	<p>RESPECT: This 8 page guide is intended to support the whole primary school community in addressing LGBT issues, and in preventing and addressing homophobic and transphobic bullying https://www.pdst.ie/sites/default/files/RESPECT%20guidelines.pdf</p>
	<p>Different Families, Same Love: This teaching resource can be used by all class teachers as an additional preventative strategy to combat homophobic and transphobic bullying. https://www.pdst.ie/sites/default/files/DifferentFamiliesSameLove_LessonResources.pdf</p> <p>Different Families Same love prezi https://prezi.com/fdiqpwoior29/different-families-same-love-poster-with-questions-3rd-6th/</p>
 <p>We All Belong</p> <p>RSE PICTURE BOOKS</p>	<p>We All Belong: A resource utilising picture books to include the wide variety and backgrounds of all children and families in our school communities https://www.into.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/We-All-Belong-Picture-Books-Resource.pdf</p>