

School Script – Language to be used regarding LGBT+ Terminology

Child-friendly Explanations - Teachers Guide

Gender

Babies are given a gender when they are born, for example ‘male’ or ‘female’, ‘boy’ or ‘girl’.

Gender Identity

Everyone has a gender identity. This is the gender they feel they are. This might be the same gender they were given as a baby, but it might not. They might feel like they are a different gender, or they might not feel like a girl or a boy.

Trans

Trans is a word that describes people who feel the gender they were given as a baby does not match the gender they feel themselves to be. For example, someone who is given the gender ‘boy’ as a baby, feels like a girl.

Straight or heterosexual

A straight or heterosexual person is someone who falls in love with, or want to have a relationship or partnership with, people who are the opposite gender to them. For example, a man who is in a relationship with a woman, or a boy who is in love with a girl.

Gay

The word gay refers to someone who falls in love with, or want to have a relationship or partnership with, people who are the same gender as them. For example, a man who loves another man or a woman who loves another woman; this might include two mums and two dads.

Lesbian

Lesbian is a word to describe a woman who falls in love with, or wants to have a relationship or partnership with, other women. For example, a girl who is in love with another girl or two mums who are in love with each other.

Bisexual

Bisexual is the word to describe someone who falls in love with, or wants to have a relationship with someone of the same gender as them or with someone of a different gender to them. A bisexual person might say that the gender of the person they fall in love with doesn’t matter to them.

People may use words such as boyfriend, girlfriend, husband, wife or partner to describe the person they are in love with or in a relationship with.

Example responses to homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying.

Establish understanding

‘Do you know what that word means?’

‘What do you mean by ‘that’s so gay’?’

'What do you mean by saying he kicks like a girl?'

'Do you understand why it is wrong/ hurtful to use that word?'

Explain Meaning

(Use child-friendly language on next page to support answers)

'Gay/lesbian/bi-sexual/trans is a word we use to describe....., not a nasty word to use against people.'

'We don't use gay/lesbian/bisexual/trans as an insult because it makes people think that being gay/lesbian/ bisexual/ trans is a bad thing.'

Use Empathy

'How do you think you would feel if someone called you names like that?'

'That language is really hurtful/unkind to me and others.'

'It is really disappointing to hear you use language that makes other people feel bad.'

Challenge Directly

'You know that that language is absolutely unacceptable.'

'Why are you saying that word?'

'How can a pair of trainers be gay?'

'If you mean rubbish, you should use the word rubbish.'

Links to school ethos and policy

'In this school we don't use language like that. We are kind, respectful and caring to everyone.'

'It's important that everyone can be themselves.'

'We are all unique and deserve to be respected/ valued/ loved by others.'

'We do not pick on people because of the way they look.'

These scripts can also be used to develop role play lessons for pupils, as well as staff, to gain confidence in challenging discriminatory language in a way that is positive and safe.

