

Who we are

SexYOUality aims to help improve the social, emotional and physical well-being of young people under 25 within the Cambridgeshire area who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or unsure of their sexuality. We achieve this by working to help identify the needs of local LGB young people, by working to address these needs through our own youth services and by supporting local statutory organisations in improving inclusion of LGB young people in the planning and delivery of their own services.

SexYOUality was founded in 1993 by a small group of dedicated and committed local people from all walks of life. Since this time, **SexYOUality** has retained the spirit and core purpose of its founders but has developed in terms its organisational capacity and the services it provides.

In the past few years **SexYOUality** has obtained funding from Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Connexions Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, local Primary Care trusts and Comic Relief. We have a range of trustees and perspectives on our management committee with representatives from national government, The NHS, local government and statutory youth agencies.

We are a registered charity no. 1097096.

Photo taken by member of 2byouth



Benefits to Schools

- ✓ **SexYOUality** schools program covers many areas of the Cambridgeshire Sex & Relationship Education Framework
- ✓ Several citizenship units readily support a discussion of homophobia and sexuality, e.g.
 - KS1, unit 5, 'Living in a diverse world'
 - KS3, unit 4, 'Britain - a diverse society?'
 - KS3, unit 9, 'The media in society'
- ✓ Helps to promote the five outcomes of Every Child Matters (DfES 2004)
- ✓ Helps teachers to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions, offer support, and be able to deal with homophobic bullying as stated in The Sex and Relationships Education Guidance (DfEE, 2000)
- ✓ Contribute to the Healthy Schools Initiative
- ✓ Promote social inclusion
- ✓ Reduce health inequalities
- ✓ Raise pupil achievement
- ✓ Can help to contribute and validate areas of the Cambridgeshire Health Promoting Schools, 'School Development Planning Framework' e.g.
- ✓ Involves professionals from external agencies to support SRE delivery within PSHE and improve skills and knowledge

To find out more information or to request a schools session please contact Lara Jaffey

SexYOUality

Office B
Dales Brewery
Gwydir Street
Cambridge CB1 2LJ
tel: 01223 369508
email: lara@dhiverse.org.uk
www.2byouth.co.uk



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SexYOUality in Schools

An introduction to sexuality and challenging homophobia



SexYOUality
SCHOOLS SERVICE

*"Well done. You're pioneering
a non-homophobic future. Don't give up!"
Year 10 pupil, rural school, Cambridgeshire*

SexYOUality's school service aims to help schools challenge and respond to homophobia through educating and informing pupils on issues surrounding sexual orientation in accordance with the local PSHE guidance as well as providing support, information and resources to teaching staff.

“SRE must be relevant to the needs of all pupils. All pupils are entitled to guidance and support, regardless of their sexual orientation, and this is stressed in the DfES Guidance”
Cambridgeshire PSHE Service

Quotes from Teachers

“They were excellent! And brave too to face the kids!! Y9 is a good year to do this kind of talk. It works well with 2 tutor groups. The school related experiences that they shared with us were very personal and the Y9s really connected with them. It was helpful to reinforce the school policy as well on the use of language which can be offensive. I learnt a lot of things too! Thanks for organising this”
Year 9 teacher, rural school, Cambridgeshire

“I didn't see it all but their presentation made a very strong impression on 9T. They told me it had definitely affected their thinking on the subject of homosexuality”
Year 9 teacher, rural school, Cambridgeshire

“**SexYOUality** were superb. Their manner in dealing with our pupils was excellent: they tolerated no poor behaviour or attitude and encouraged open and frank discussion, with appropriate levels of humour. They dealt with the subject matter in a sensitive but highly informative manner, and engendered a very positive response from the pupils. I genuinely think we'd be hard pressed to find any other group who could improve upon the way **SexYOUality** dealt with this subject matter”
Year 10 form tutor, rural school, Cambridgeshire

Quotes from Pupils

“I think more people of our age should be able to hear this talk”
Year 9 pupil, rural school, Cambridgeshire

“Good information because teachers don't talk about the topic. I think we need more tutoring on gay people”
Year 8 pupil, rural school, Cambridgeshire

“Very good, open, definitely changed my mind about gay people”
Year 9 pupil, rural school, Cambridgeshire

“Well done. You're pioneering a non-homophobic future. Don't give up!”
Year 10 pupil, rural school, Cambridgeshire

Services and Prices

Aims

1. To provide information and facts to young people on the complexities of sexual orientation.
2. To look into attitudes and perceptions of young people regarding sexuality and to try to tackle any negative attitudes through positive representation, interactive learning and group discussion.

Outline of Session

SexYOUality's introduction to sexuality and challenging homophobia is an interactive, multi-media session which encourages pupils to look at issues such as freedom of speech, stereotyping and prejudices. It asks pupils to examine their own experiences of the use of negative language and then focuses on the effects of use of such language and homophobic behavior. The session also gives a comprehensive yet basic overview of current legislation and rights for LGB people. The session can be tailored to individual class times and ages and is suitable for key stages 3, 4 and 5.

We offer 4 packages:

			
Package 1	1 Lesson	Package 2	Half Day
We can work with up to two classes in one lesson. Price includes teachers' pack	Price: £80.00	Two classes. Maximum in each session. Price includes two teachers' packs	Price: £150.00
			
Package 3	Full Day	Package 4	Schools session + Package of your choice plus 2 days teacher support
Two Classes. Maximum in each session. Price includes four teachers' packs	Price: £300.00	Includes ideas and information on policy development, how to promote correct use of language, practical ideas for lessons and individual support for teachers	Price: Package Price + £200.00

Teachers Pack includes flyers for our services, posters, a list of resources to support class discussions and a guide to challenging homophobia in schools.

SexYOUality is a non-for-profit organisation. The cost of our schools service represents the cost to us. This includes staff time, expenses and resource costs. For a detailed break down of costs please contact **SexYOUality**.

National Picture

Young LGB (lesbian, gay and bisexual) people face much prejudice, homophobia and inequality whilst growing up. PSHE plays an important role in combating social exclusion and disaffection and can equip young people with the skills and attitudes needed to react positively to the pressures of modern life. LGB young people have the right to the same information and resources as all young people but currently this information is not made fully available to them due to lack of knowledge, understanding and resources in schools.

Research suggests that most teachers are aware of homophobic bullying in their school. In one survey (DfES, 2002) 82% said they were aware of verbal incidents and 26% were aware of physical incidents. Homophobic bullying is often present in an environment that fails to challenge and respond to homophobia.

Through education and sharing experiences this homophobia can be challenged. Young LGB people can grow in confidence and start to feel able to be open about their experiences once schools actively embrace and understand the importance of talking about sexual orientation in an open and honest way.

Local Picture

Key findings from a local needs assessment undertaken by 107 young LGB people in 2004 show us that:

- Most young people realize their sexual identity at an average age of 13 years old.
- Almost half said there was not a member of staff at their schools they could speak to about being LGB.
- Most of these young people had received little or no information at school about being lesbian, gay or bisexual.
- Almost two thirds had experienced homophobic abuse, violence or threats.
- The most common location for this abuse was school.

SexYOUality