

DL14: How to support lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils

This script outlines possible ways to respond to a pupil who tells you they are lesbian, gay or bisexual. Remember to remind pupils that they can talk to you in confidence, but if they say anything which constitutes a safeguarding risk, you will need to involve other people. Being gay is not in itself a risk, but when it is judged that a young person is at risk of significant harm in some other way this will result in an obligation to disclose.

Pupil: Sir, I think I might be gay.

Staff: Ok. I'm glad you've come to talk to me about it. How do you feel?

Pupil: Scared, alone, I don't know anyone else who is gay.

Staff: Well, you won't be the only gay pupil in this school. It is ok to be gay you know. Have you discussed this with your parents?



Pupil: No. I don't want to tell them because I'm worried about how they'll react.

Pupil: No, but I'm going to tell them soon.

Pupil: Yes. My dad refuses to speak to me.

Staff: Ok, we can talk about that later and think about some ways to approach it.

Staff: Good. Have you thought about how they might react?

Staff: Ok, well we can help you with that. What does your mum say? Is there anyone else in your family who can help? There are organisations that can help – I can give you their details.

Staff: Have you met anybody else who is gay? Or joined any groups or looked at resources?

Pupil: No. I'm not sure where to begin. I'd like to meet other people.

Pupil: Yes, I've looked on some internet sites but haven't met anyone my own age yet.

Pupil: Yes. I've gone to the local bar and club sometimes, when I've been able to get in.



<p>Staff: Well, there's a local youth group that meets every week. There are also websites for young people. I can give you the details of them, and some advice about how to use the internet safely.</p>	<p>Staff: There are some good youth sites. I'll give you the details, but you need to be very careful on the web. If you find that you are being contacted by adults be very cautious and alert a parent/carer or teacher immediately.</p>	<p>Staff: Have you thought about going to the local youth group instead? You'll be able to meet people of your own age. You are underage, and shouldn't be going to clubs. I'll get you the details.</p>
<p>Staff: Does anyone at school know? Has anyone treated you any differently because you are gay?</p>		
<p>Pupil: No, they don't know, and I don't want them to either. I'm scared I'll get bullied.</p> 	<p>Pupil: Some know and are supportive, but I don't want the others to find out.</p> 	<p>Pupil: Yes, they all know and some of the boys give me a hard time about it.</p> 
<p>Staff: We won't let that happen. Homophobic bullying is not tolerated in this school, and we will respond effectively to any incidents.</p>	<p>Staff: What do your friends think? Will they be supportive? We won't tolerate homophobic bullying in this school.</p>	<p>Staff: I'm glad you've told me. I'll be able to help you sort this out. Do you feel able to give me any names/times when incidents have occurred?</p>
<p>Staff: I'm glad you've told me. You have nothing to be ashamed of – lots of people are gay. I will find you the details of the youth group – that is better than going to clubs and pubs. And I'll find details of groups that your parents might want to contact. I also want you to tell me if anybody bullies you. We can't stop it if you don't tell us.</p>		