

DL9: Working with pupils who bully

Does the pupil understand that homophobic bullying is not acceptable in school?
Do they understand why?

Yes

No

Pupils cannot be expected to learn by themselves that homophobic bullying is unacceptable. They need to be told.

Does the pupil understand that homophobic language is unacceptable – “I’m not reading that, it’s gay”?

Yes

No

If a pupil is not told that homophobic language is always unacceptable, they may not understand that homophobic bullying is wrong.

Are there opportunities in school to talk about the damage that homophobic bullying does?
Do young people understand that it is not acceptable in society?

Yes

No

Pupils may not realise that treating gay people differently is now illegal in the workplace and is unacceptable in society. Do they realise their attitudes are prejudiced?

Do parents understand that homophobic bullying is wrong, regardless of their opinion about gay people? Do pupils understand the difference?

Yes

No

Even if pupils and parents have certain religious or moral views about gay people, this does not mean that bullying people is allowed.

Are staff confident about discussing issues about sexual orientation in class, even if pupils express uncomfortable opinions?
Do they know the difference between strong views and bullying?

Yes

No

Pupils should not be discouraged from expressing their views about gay people and issues but they should understand the difference between expressing an opinion and bullying.

Do pupils understand the sanctions that are in place in relation to homophobic bullying?
Do parents understand?

No

Pupils who bully need to understand that the sanctions applied to them will be the same as any other form of bullying.