



# **inclusive education**

information for parents  
and carers



This information explains what's happening in schools to make sure that all young people:

- See themselves, their families and the world around them in what they learn
- Understand their right to be respected for who they are
- Appreciate and respect difference in other people

**LGBT inclusive education means that LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) themes and people are included across subjects/courses and year-groups in the Curriculum for Excellence.**

For example:

- Social studies and history classes might include teaching about the history of LGBT rights movements, in the same way that other human rights issues are taught
- Sports teaching could include LGBT role models as is done with other sports people who have overcome significant barriers to inclusion or success
- When families are used as examples, in classroom content, they could have two mothers or fathers

For LGBT young people, and young people from LGBT families, it means they can see their own lives reflected in what they learn. This forms an educational approach to addressing the bullying behaviours that some LGBT young people and their peers experience.

For all young people, it raises awareness and encourages respect for the many differences there are between us all, and to see everyone in our diverse communities as equal. Respecting differences prevents bullying behaviour.

# kindness



## We're all different

We're all different and unique: whether because of the colour of our eyes, what we enjoy doing, our age, our family-type, or some other aspect. Sometimes people assume that there's a 'normal' and that diversity is something to be feared or hidden, or that our differences are a reason to hurt or bully another person.

Schools are doing a lot to help young people understand and respect the ways in which we are the same as and differ from one another (such as ethnic background or any disabilities we have), and to see this as something to accept, respect and also like about themselves and others.



## We're all equal

Schools are keen to encourage respect and equality for everyone, and to make sure that education includes everyone. By law, Local Authorities have a duty (public sector equality duty) to promote equality and avoid discrimination. You can find out more about the Equality Act 2010 at [equalityhumanrights.com/en/equality-act/equality-act-faqs](http://equalityhumanrights.com/en/equality-act/equality-act-faqs)

All sorts of laws and attitudes have changed over time, but there's still some catching up to be done in negative attitudes towards LGBT people (even though laws have changed). This is important because LGBT children, and those from LGBT families, are often bullied because of such attitudes and can struggle to accept or be confident in themselves as a result. This can affect how they get on at school, and their general health and wellbeing.



## Parents are important for children's learning and wellbeing

Children see themselves and the world around them based on what they learn at home as well as at school. They are away from school more than they are in it. Parents know their children best and do a lot to support what children learn – in and out of school. You can help your children learn that everyone's different and equal, and to appreciate difference in themselves and others.

You don't need to be an expert to support your child in this way. There are some ideas below. If you'd like to know more or find out how to approach LGBT themes, there's plenty of information and help, at school and elsewhere. There are some links to information and advice for parents, and more about what's happening in schools, below.

In turn, teachers and schools want to support parents and involve you in your child's education because, when parents are involved, children do better. So, if there's anything you are not sure about and want to ask about LGBT inclusive education, do speak to your child's teacher(s) or guidance/headteacher.

# respect

## Supporting your child

There are many ways you can support your child, such as:

- Showing children and young people how important it is to respect and be kind to others
- Supporting children and young people to feel valued and to understand their right to respect and equality
- Showing children and young people that they will be supported if they are experiencing bullying or struggling with their identity
- Finding out from the school/nursery what they are doing about LGBT inclusive education
- Showing an interest in what your child is learning

## Some facts about LGBT inclusive education

Schools are teaching LGBT equality and inclusion from ages three to 18 through Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence [npfs.org.uk/downloads/category/curriculum-for-excellence](https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/category/curriculum-for-excellence)

Each school decides how they will do this. Whatever they do is based on the age and stage of the child and as part of everyday teaching. For example:

- The fact that some children have two mums, while others have two dads, is incorporated within Primary teaching about different family types.
  - Some of the literature in secondary school English courses includes characters who are LGBT or is written by LGBT authors
  - Modern studies classes research articles on LGBT themes and people covered in the news press/social media
  - History classes look at topics such as the introduction of Section 28 in the 1980s and its repeal in 2000
  - Media and art classes explore the contribution of LGBT artists, film-makers, designers and so on
- The main aim is to include LGBT themes and experiences as standard in learning. Wider aspects of sexual orientation and gender identity are already part of relationships, sexual health and parenthood (RHSP) education.
- Teachers are being trained so they feel confident about their approach, and materials are being developed for teachers to use. You can see more about this at the link overleaf.

# equality

## More information

### Guidance for local authorities

so you can see what is expected:  
[gov.scot/publications/lgbt-inclusive-education-guidance-to-education-authorities-may-2019](http://gov.scot/publications/lgbt-inclusive-education-guidance-to-education-authorities-may-2019)

### Education Scotland National Improvement Hub

for teachers and others:  
[education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/supporting-lgbt-young-people-and-those-who-are-part-of-lgbt-families](http://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/supporting-lgbt-young-people-and-those-who-are-part-of-lgbt-families)

### Inclusive Education online resources

A one-stop website for all LGBT Inclusive Education resources and training, including lesson plans available at [lgbteducation.scot](http://lgbteducation.scot)

### Relationships, sexual health and parenthood (RHSP) education materials

information for parents and teachers:  
[rshp.scot](http://rshp.scot)

### LGBT Youth Scotland:

[lgbtyouth.org.uk](http://lgbtyouth.org.uk)

### Respect me:

[respectme.org.uk](http://respectme.org.uk)

### Time for Inclusive Education (TIE):

[tie.scot](http://tie.scot)



**npfs.org.uk**

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 [parentforumscotland](https://www.facebook.com/parentforumscotland)

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## WORKING TOGETHER FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

