

Guidance on speaking to children regarding homophobic, biphobic or transphobic teaching

Establish understanding

'Do you know what that word means?'

'What do you mean by 'that's so gay!'''

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

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

Explain meaning

'Gay/lesbian/bisexual/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 something bad.'

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 using language that makes other people feel bad.'

Challenge directly

'You know that that language is absolutely unacceptable. It is like calling someone a name because of their colour'

'Why are you saying that word?'

'How can a pair of trainers be gay?'

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

Link to school ethos and policy

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

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

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

'We don't pick on people because of the way they look.'