

Information sheet

Heterosexual	Homosexual	Bisexual
 <p>Heterosexual people are attracted to people of the opposite sex e.g. a man being sexually attracted to a woman.</p>	 <p>Homosexual people are attracted to people of the same sex e.g. a man being sexually attracted to another man or a woman being sexually attracted to another woman.</p>	 <p>Bisexual people are attracted to both men and women e.g. a woman being sexually attracted to both women and men</p>

Gay say

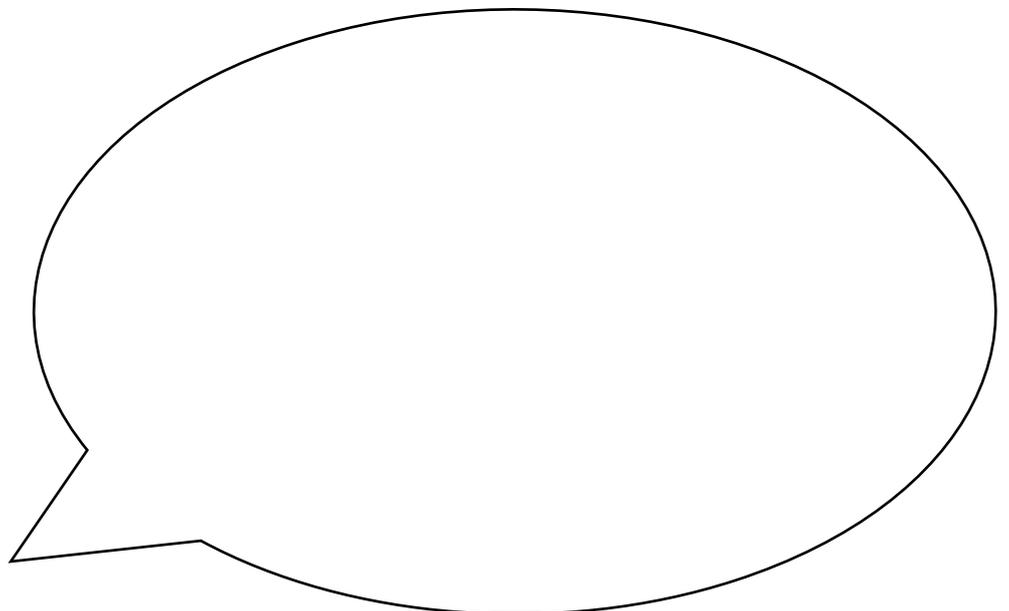
"Being gay is gross"

"Being gay is a choice,
so it's their own fault
if they get hassled"

"Gay couples can't
procreate, so it's not a
natural relationship"

"It goes against my
religion"

"I don't want them
perving at me"



People might think this because

<p>Things that feel unnatural to us or that we couldn't imagine doing ourselves can feel a bit icky.</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>Holy books might reference homosexuality as sinful or show a preference for heterosexual relationships</p>
<p>If we don't understand something, or it feels unusual to us, this can lead to mistrust or concern.</p>	<p>Romantic relationships can often lead to having children, and you need sperm and an egg to create a baby</p>	<p>We make choices about our behaviour every day, so to many sexuality is a simple choice too</p>

Arguments that oppose these statements

<p>Lots of heterosexual couples either choose not to have children or are unable to have children. According to the NHS approximately 3.5 million people will struggle with fertility www.nhs.uk</p>	<p>Not everyone follows a religion (25%) and this figure is increasing, so it would be unfair to expect everyone to follow your religious beliefs. www.ons.gov.uk</p> <p>The golden rule within all faiths states that you should be kind to others and not judge, only God can judge.</p>
<p>Romantic attraction is something that happens naturally. Your sexuality is something that develops, it is not something you can control.</p>	<p>Heterosexual men don't want to have sex with every woman they might and vice versa, so it is incorrect to presume a homosexual or bisexual person will be automatically attracted to someone of the same sex.</p>
<p>Just because you think something is disgusting or wrong this doesn't mean it's an accepted or common view. Statistics and changes to UK law show that attitudes towards sexuality are changing, with a decreasing number of people viewing homosexuality as wrong. www.thesociologicalreview.com</p>	<p>?</p>

Teacher tips:

This will work best and be more time effective if the student worksheets are cut up prior to the session. If this is not possible, provide scissors so that students can cut the statements out as they are discussing them.

Step 1 – Have a general discussion about sexuality. Use the information sheet if needed. Don't go into too much detail at this stage, simply ensure students are aware of different sexualities and understand that there are different opinions towards sexuality.

Step 2 – Hand out the 'gay say' sheet (small groups) ask them to discuss the statements, have they heard them before? Do they agree with them? Etc. There is a blank speech bubble for students to add their own opinion or for the teacher to add something they have heard which they would like students to discuss.

Step 3 – Hand out the 'people might think this because' sheet. Students need to match each statement to one of the speech bubbles. Discuss as a class, do students agree or disagree with these opinions? There is a blank box so that students can write an agree statement for the speech bubble they have created/been provided with.

Step 4 – Hand out the 'oppose' statements. Students need to match each statement to one of the pairs they have already created. Once complete, students will have a range of opinions (speech bubbles) and an agree/disagree statement for each. There is a blank box so that students can write an opposing statement for the speech bubble they have created/been provided with.

This should set the scene for a great discussion around sexuality and discrimination.

Use the teacher support sheet to aid this discussion.

Teacher support

Ideally, the suggestions in these boxes should be explored. These are all tried and tested methods to encourage students to think about and assess opinions.

We make choices about our behaviour every day, so to many sexuality is a simple choice too

The ice-cream analogy is great for this. What is your favourite ice-cream flavour? Strawberry. How do you know that? How do you know it's not chocolate? Well, I've tried chocolate, but I prefer strawberry. Ok, so to make a choice you must have considered alternatives? Yes. In terms of sexuality, most people don't try going out with boys and then girls and then decide which they like the best, they just know.

Romantic relationships can often lead to having children, and you need sperm and an egg to create a baby

Use the statistics provided on the card sort but explore emotions in more detail. How might it feel to struggle with fertility? Now imagine people were using that as a reason for your relationship to be invalid. You could also discuss the different ways that people might start a family e.g. surrogacy, adoption.

If we don't understand something, or it feels unusual to us, this can lead to mistrust or concern.

THIS IS REALLY POWERFUL IF A TEACHER IS HAPPY TO DISCLOSE THEIR SEXUALITY, IF NOT IT CAN BE DONE HYPOTHETICALLY

As a heterosexual/homosexual man/woman, I do not enter a room with women/men in and automatically fancy them, just as I'm sure you don't, people who believe this to be true have probably never met a homosexual person before as this is simply not a true reflection of behaviour.

You could also discuss the change in law in relation to gay marriage, people fought for this law to strengthen their union, so to suggest gay people are naturally promiscuous goes against this.

Holy books might reference homosexuality as sinful or show a preference for heterosexual relationships

World religions teach people about love and respect. Even if as a *** you believe that homosexuality is wrong, you should also believe

that it is only God's job to judge and it is your job to treat others with kindness. Just because you don't agree with something, it doesn't mean you have the right to attack it. Also, there are many other passages within religious scriptures that state things are wrong, e.g. wearing clothes made of two or more different fabric (Bible - Deuteronomy 22:9-11) do you also follow these scriptures? You could also discuss Reverend Richard Coles (gay vicar) Also, that the summer of 2017 saw the first UK Muslim gay marriage. Religion is not simply a cultural model, it is a personal and individual relationship with God.

Things that feel unnatural to us or that we couldn't imagine doing ourselves can feel a bit icky.

If someone was eating jellied eel, that might make you feel a bit ill, because you don't like jellied eel and couldn't imagine ever eating it. But it's not gross to people that eat jellied eel and it shouldn't be a concern to you either as you don't have to eat it if you don't want to. The same can be said of homosexuality, if you do find it gross (which is a shame) then just let people be, as it doesn't impact you in any way. Also think about the impact it would have on someone calling them gross or sick simply because of their sexuality. There are some great YouTube clips that show what the world would be like if homosexuality was the norm, these are great for stimulating discussion.

It is vital that you ensure students understand that to discriminate against someone due to their sexuality is illegal. The Equality Act 2010 recognises sexuality as one of the 9 protected characteristics. Therefore, after this discussion, if there are still students that refuse to accept homosexuality, you have the duty, as a teacher, to ensure they understand that if they were to make a homophobic statement at school or in the workplace, there would be serious repercussions. Although we have freedom of speech and expression, we also have a duty to ensure that what we say is not discriminatory or goes against our fundamental British Values. Religion cannot be used as an excuse to discriminate, as the UK follows the rule of law not religious law.