

**Stonewall**

# ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

**This resource is produced by Stonewall, a UK-based charity that stands for the freedom, equity and potential of all lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, questioning and ace (LGBTQ+) people.**

At Stonewall, we imagine a world where LGBTQ+ people everywhere can live our lives to the full.

Founded in London in 1989, we now work in each nation of the UK and have established partnerships across the globe. Over the last three decades, we have created transformative change in the lives of LGBTQ+ people in the UK, helping win equal rights around marriage, having children and inclusive education.

Our campaigns drive positive change for our communities, and our sustained change and empowerment programmes ensure that LGBTQ+ people can thrive throughout our lives. We make sure that the world hears and learns from our communities, and our work is grounded in evidence and expertise.

To find out more about our work, visit us at [www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk)

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Stonewall is proud to provide information, support and guidance on LGBTQ+ inclusion; working towards a world where we're all free to be. This does not constitute legal advice, and is not intended to be a substitute for legal counsel on any subject matter.



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# SCHOOL REPORT SCOTLAND

The experiences of  
lesbian, gay, bi and trans  
young people in Scotland's  
schools in 2017

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## FOREWORD

When *School Report Scotland* was first released in 2012, it painted a startling picture of life for lesbian, gay and bi young people in Scotland. More than half were being bullied at school because of their sexual orientation, and homophobic language was rife in schools. Half of lesbian, gay and bi pupils said that LGBT issues had never been discussed in school, leaving them feeling isolated and without support. The finding that a quarter had attempted to take their own lives was a shocking wake up call, leaving no doubt that more needed to be done urgently.

Over the last five years, Stonewall Scotland has worked with hundreds of teachers and schools across Scotland to help create more LGBT-inclusive schools. Our Train the Trainer Programme has supported teachers across Scotland to become more confident in supporting LGBT young people, while our annual Education Conference has enabled schools to come together and learn from each other. Through our Education Champions programme, we've worked with local authorities to help them ensure that their schools are inclusive places where LGBT people can flourish. In addition, in 2015 Stonewall extended its remit to campaign for trans equality, and I am delighted that for the first time this report includes the experiences of trans pupils in Scotland's schools.

This report shows the impact of this work, as well as that of the TIE Campaign and countless campaigners across Scotland raising awareness of LGBT issues in schools. Compared to 2012, Lesbian, gay and bi young people are less likely to be bullied at school because of their sexual orientation, and young people are more likely to be taught about LGBT issues in schools. Schools are more likely to explicitly say that homophobic and biphobic bullying is wrong.

But while there has been welcome progress, this study shows how much there is left to do. Only a third of LGBT students say teachers intervene to challenge bullying when they are present. Anti-LGBT language continues to be a major issue for students, with nine in ten hearing still hearing phrases like 'that's so gay' on a regular basis. Elsewhere, more than two in five LGBT young people say they have experienced anti-LGBT abuse online.

Trans pupils are at particular risk: many face harassment and violence, with 71 per cent experiencing bullying at school. Two in three trans young people say that they are not able to use the toilets they feel comfortable in at school, while more than a third are not able to be known their preferred name at school. Nearly all trans young people have harmed themselves at some point.

Over the last five years, Scottish Government has taken positive steps to make sure that Scottish schools can be inclusive places where LGBT young people can flourish. The formation of a working group focused on LGBT-inclusive education, and backing for the Time for Inclusive Education Campaign, show how much support there is to create inclusive schools for young LGBT people. The time has come now to take the next step, and make this vision a reality.

We often hear a great deal about how far Scotland has come on LGBT rights, and how life has improved for LGBT young people. But this study shows that while some LGBT young are accepted, for many bullying, discrimination and exclusion are part of their day to day lives. There is still much to do; we cannot be complacent. Our work will continue until every young person can be accepted without exception.

Colin Macfarlane

**Director, Stonewall Scotland**

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# THIS STUDY

In 2016 Stonewall commissioned the Centre for Family Research at the University of Cambridge to conduct a survey with young people who are lesbian, gay, bi or trans (or think they might be) on their experiences in secondary schools and colleges across Britain. Between November 2016 and February 2017, 3,713 LGBT young people aged between 11-19, including 402 living in Scotland, completed an online questionnaire. This report represents the responses of these participants living in Scotland.

This study is the second report published by Stonewall Scotland, five years on from the School Report Cornerstone in 2012. It is the first to include the specific experiences of trans young people, reflecting Stonewall's decision to extend its remit to campaign for trans equality in 2015.

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## CHAPTER 1

# KEY FINDINGS

## BULLYING AND LANGUAGE

- **Half** of lesbian, gay, bi and trans (LGBT) young people in Scotland (48 per cent) – including **71 per cent** of trans young people – are bullied for being LGBT at school
- **More than three in five** LGBT young people (63 per cent) 'frequently' or 'often' hear homophobic language in school, **more than two in five** (43 per cent) 'frequently' or 'often' hear biphobic language and **more than half** (53 per cent) 'frequently' or 'often' hear transphobic language
- **Nine in ten** LGBT young people (91 per cent) regularly hear phrases such as 'that's so gay' or 'you're so gay' in school
- **More than two in five** LGBT young people who experience homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying (44 per cent) never tell anyone about it

## HOW SCHOOLS RESPOND

- **Just a third** of bullied LGBT young people in Scottish schools (32 per cent) say that teachers intervene when they are present during the bullying
- **Seven in ten** LGBT young people (72 per cent) report that teachers or school staff only 'sometimes' or 'never' challenge homophobic, biphobic and transphobic language when they hear it
- **Seven in ten** LGBT young people (68 per cent) report that their schools say homophobic and biphobic bullying is wrong, but just **four in ten** (41 per cent) report that their schools say transphobic bullying is wrong

## TEACHING

- **Two in five** LGBT young people in Scottish schools (41 per cent) are never taught anything about LGBT issues in school or college
- Just **one in five** LGBT young people (22 per cent) have learnt about safe sex in relation to same-sex relationships
- **Three in four** LGBT young people (75 per cent) have never learnt about bisexuality at school
- **Four in five** LGBT young people (78 per cent) have never been taught about or discussed gender identity and what 'trans' means

## SUPPORT

- **Nearly half** of LGBT young people in Scotland (45 per cent) say that there isn't an adult at school they can talk to about being LGBT
- Just **four per cent** of LGBT young people who know of an openly bi member of staff, and only **two per cent** who know of an openly trans member of staff. **Three in ten** LGBT young people (28 per cent) know of an openly gay member of staff, and **23 per cent** know of an openly lesbian member of staff
- **More than half** of trans young people (53 per cent) say that staff at their school are not familiar with the term 'trans' and what it means
- **Two in three** trans young people (65 per cent) say that they are not able to use the toilets they feel comfortable in at school, while **more than a third** of trans young people (36 per cent) are not able to be known their preferred name at school



## WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

- **More than two in five** bullied LGBT young people in Scottish schools (43 per cent) have skipped school because of bullying about being LGBT
- **More than half** of bullied LGBT young people (56 per cent) feel that homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying has had a negative effect on their plans for future education
- **Nearly all** trans young people (96 per cent) have deliberately harmed themselves at some point. For lesbian, gay and bi young people who are not trans, **three in five** (58 per cent) have self-harmed
- **More than two in five** trans young people (43 per cent) have at some point attempted to take their own life. For lesbian, gay and bi young people who are not trans, **one in four** (24 per cent) have tried to take their own life

## AT HOME AND ONLINE

- Just **two in five** LGBT young people in Scotland (41 per cent) have an adult at home they can talk to about being LGBT
- **Nearly all** LGBT young people in Scotland (96 per cent) say the Internet has helped them understand more about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity
- **More than two in five** LGBT young people (44 per cent) have been the target of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic abuse online
- **Nearly all** LGBT young people (98 per cent) see homophobic, biphobic and transphobic content online
- **Three in five** LGBT young people (62 per cent) think that online platforms are unlikely to do anything about tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic content or incidents when it is reported to them

**The bullying went on for years and still does.  
I'm totally alone and denying who I am.**

Rachel, 16, secondary school (Scotland)



## SCHOOL REPORT: OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS IN SCOTLAND

Compared to the findings of the 2012 School Report, in 2017:

**Lesbian, gay and bi young people are slightly less likely to experience homophobic and biphobic bullying in Scottish schools.** In 2017, **48 per cent** of LGBT young people are bullied for being lesbian, gay, bi and trans in Scotland's secondary schools and colleges, down from **52 per cent** of lesbian, gay and bi young people who experienced homophobic bullying in 2012.

**Scottish schools are more likely to say that homophobic bullying is wrong.** In 2017 **68 per cent** of LGBT young people in Scotland report that their school says that homophobic and biphobic bullying is wrong, up from **57 per cent** in 2012.

**Young people are more likely to be taught about LGBT issues at school.** In 2017 **41 per cent** of LGBT young people have never been taught about LGBT issues in Scottish schools, down from **48 per cent** in 2012.

**Experiences of poor mental health remain alarmingly high.**

This year's report found that **58 per cent** of Scottish lesbian, gay and bi young people (who aren't trans) have deliberately harmed themselves at some point, compared to **54 per cent** in 2012. It found that **24 per cent** of Scottish lesbian, gay and bi young people (who aren't trans) have tried to take their own life at some point; this compares to **26 per cent** in 2012.

I had to explain what it meant to be a trans person to my guidance teacher.

Rhys, 18, now at University (West Scotland)

My friends have been amazing. They are such positive people and don't treat me any differently. If anything, I feel more accepted because I am being my full self.

Elsa, 19, now at University (Central Scotland)



## CHAPTER 2

# PREVALENCE OF HOMOPHOBIC, BIPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC BULLYING

Homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and language continues to be common throughout Scotland's secondary schools and colleges.

## BULLYING

**Half** of LGBT young people in Scotland (48 per cent) are bullied for being LGBT at school.

**It was happening since primary school, all the way until college. Usually verbal, but sometimes physical. It sucked. It really f\*\*\*ing sucked.**

Lauren, 19, FE college (Central Scotland)

**Half** of trans young people (52 per cent) are bullied at school for being trans. Trans young people are also bullied on the basis of their perceived or actual sexual orientation: when taking into account those who experience bullying due to their gender identity and/or sexual orientation, **seven in ten** (71 per cent) trans young people overall are bullied for being LGBT at school in Scotland.

**People constantly make transphobic remarks about me. People would get off the bus and start shouting at me, saying 'what are you?'**

Connor, 14, secondary school (Central Scotland)

**A group of younger students began making remarks about how because I dressed masculine (before I was out as trans and so still looked like a girl) that I must be a lesbian and began calling me derogatory names.**

Dylan, 16, now in employment (Mid Scotland and Fife)

More than half of lesbian and gay young people (54 per cent) and **one in three** bi young people (35 per cent) are bullied at school for being LGBT.

**When I told a friend I was bisexual, she told everyone in the year and I experienced a lot of bullying for it. Eventually I just said I wasn't. It's easier for people not to know.**

Sarah, 17, secondary school (Mid Scotland and Fife)

**A friend made up rumours and told her friends who teased me for being lesbian. I was figuring out my sexuality and thought everyone would hate me or find me disgusting.**

Jemma, 19, now in employment (Scotland)

**Two in five** LGBT girls (38 per cent) and **nearly three in five** LGBT boys (56 per cent) are bullied for being LGBT at school.

## LANGUAGE

Even if not bullied themselves, most LGBT young people in Scotland hear homophobic, biphobic and transphobic language in school.

**Nine in ten** LGBT young people (91 per cent) regularly hear phrases such as 'that's so gay' or 'you're so gay' in school, with **seven in ten** (72 per cent) hearing such comments 'frequently' or 'often'. This is higher in Scotland compared to the rest of Britain (72% compared to 65%).

**Phrases such as 'that's so gay' have become normalised and almost acceptable within the school.**

Jamie, 17, secondary school (Highlands and Islands)

**More than three in five** LGBT young people (63 per cent) 'frequently' or 'often' hear homophobic language such as 'faggot' or 'lezza' in school. LGBT young people in Scotland are significantly more likely than LGBT young people across Britain as a whole to hear this language 'frequently' or 'often' in school (63 per cent compared to 50 per cent).

**More than two in five** LGBT young people (43 per cent) 'frequently' or 'often' hear negative comments about bi people (biphobic language).

**It wears you down after a while, all the stuff you hear on a day-to-day basis. You think that the odd comment about LGBT people won't get to you but it does. It's part of why I'm still in the closet and it makes me feel really bad about myself as a bi person.**

Jessica, 17, secondary school (Lothian)

**I've only every been bullied by other gay boys, who think that either I'm lying about being bisexual and am too afraid to come out, or that I just want to be part of a special clique but still be able to chase girls.**

Lewis, 17, secondary school (Lothian)

**More than half** of LGBT young people (53 per cent) 'frequently' or 'often' hear negative comments about trans people (transphobic language).

**People would just call me a 'he she', 'tranny' and other transphobic remarks as well as talk about me, come up to me and ask me about my genitals.**

Jay, 16, sixth form college (Central Scotland)

Sometimes anti-LGBT language can come from teachers and staff as well as young people.

**Some of the teachers often use derogatory terms to describe LGBT people and people in the school community.**

Ross, 18, now at University (Lothian)

**Homophobic, biphobic and transphobic language is considered normal by most teachers and young people.**

Kate, 16, secondary school (Lothian)



## CHAPTER 3

# WHAT DOES THE BULLYING LOOK LIKE?

Homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in Scottish schools ranges from verbal abuse to death threats, and takes place in and around school, including while young people are in lessons.

### PREVALENCE OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF BULLYING AT SCHOOL

**Nearly half** of LGBT young people in Scotland (46 per cent) face verbal abuse in school.

**'Pervert!' was screamed at me from the other end of a hall.**  
Alex, 14, secondary school (South Scotland)

**I was first bullied for people thinking I was a lesbian in primary school. They used words like 'queer' and 'lesbo'.**  
Erin, 17, sixth form college (North East Scotland)

**The main kind of bullying I experienced in early years of secondary school were insults such as 'gay boy', and 'faggot', and uncomfortable questions about my sexuality such as 'are you gay?' and 'do you like dick?'.**  
Oliver, 16, secondary school (North East Scotland)

**Two in five** LGBT young people (41 per cent) are gossiped about. **One in four** LGBT young people (27 per cent) are ignored or isolated, while the same percentage are subjected to intimidating looks.

**I was outed by the small group of people that I confided in originally. They went on to 'spread the news', so to speak. The bullying was fairly pedestrian; strange looks, plenty of gossip and eventually the loss of the majority of my friend group.**  
Jason, 19, now at University (Glasgow)

**Girls were writing things about me on pieces of paper and spreading rumours about me.**

Hannah, 16, secondary school (Central Scotland)

**Ten per cent** of LGBT young people experience physical bullying, which includes being hit, punched, kicked or having objects thrown at them.

**People would throw things like pencil cases filled with scissors or rocks, kicking, shoving.**  
Aimee, 14, secondary school (West Scotland)

**I've been pushed up against the wall, had jotters stolen, textbooks vandalised, threatening Facebook messages, sexually explicit threats.**  
Lewis, 17, secondary school (Lothian)

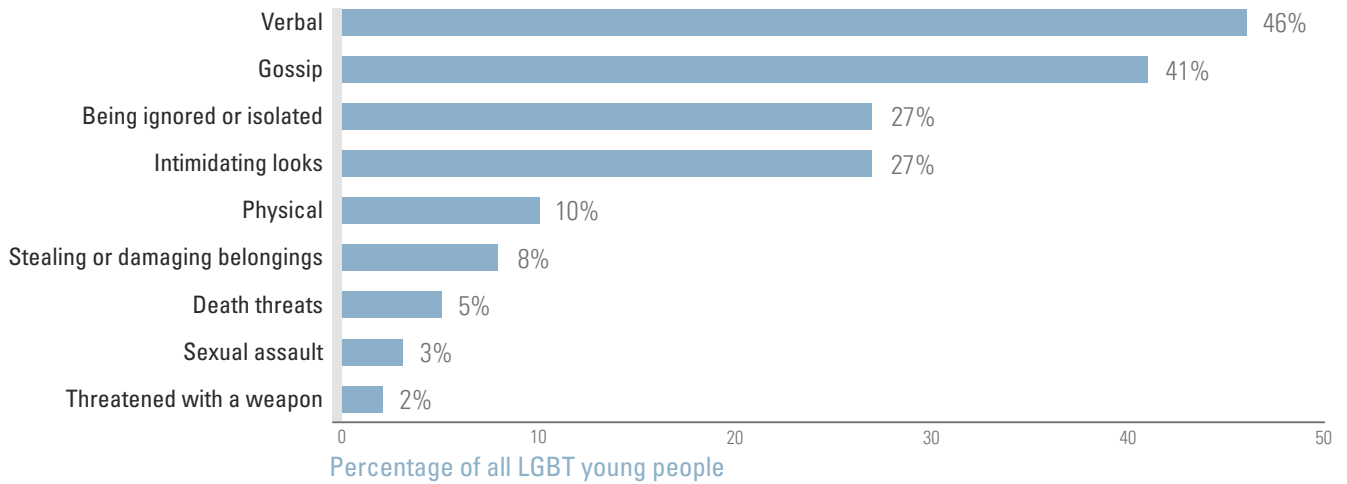
**Eight per cent** of LGBT young people have their belongings stolen or damaged.

**At one point the person bullying me had stolen my bag and drawn over it, which was really upsetting. She also sent me many text messages saying that I should not have any friends, and even suggested I should 'kill myself' at one point.**  
Chloe, 17, secondary school (Mid Scotland and Fife)

**Five per cent** of LGBT young people receive death threats at school, and **three per cent** of LGBT young people experience sexual assault. **Two per cent** of LGBT young people are threatened with weapons at school.

**I was raped by another student in a transphobic attack.**  
Varnie, 19, now at University (West Scotland)

## WHAT FORM DID THE BULLYING TAKE?



## WHERE HOMOPHOBIC, BIPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC BULLYING TAKES PLACE AT SCHOOL

LGBT young people in Scotland are most often bullied in corridors or around school grounds. **More than a third** of LGBT young people (37 per cent) are bullied in corridors, and **a third** (33 per cent) are bullied around school grounds.

**Three in ten** LGBT young people (30 per cent) experience homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying during lessons.

**One in five** LGBT young people (21 per cent) are bullied for being LGBT while at school via mobile phone or online.

**A group of girls created a fake trans account as proof that I was a 'tranny', this was after a former close friend spread it around that I was trans. I'm currently still in the closet.**

Jay, 16, sixth form college (Central Scotland)

**One in five** LGBT young people (21 per cent) are bullied in changing rooms, and one in six LGBT young people (15 per cent) are bullied during sports lessons.

**I am unable to use the boys changing room for fear of being bullied.**

Oliver, 16, secondary school (North East Scotland)

Even if not bullied themselves, **three in five** LGBT young people in Scotland (60 per cent) regularly hear homophobic, biphobic and transphobic language in sports lessons, and **half** of LGBT young people (49 per cent) don't feel welcome and included in sports lessons.

**I would ask to be pulled out of PE if I still had to take it after coming out as trans because I wouldn't be allowed (and wouldn't feel safe) in a boys-only class.**

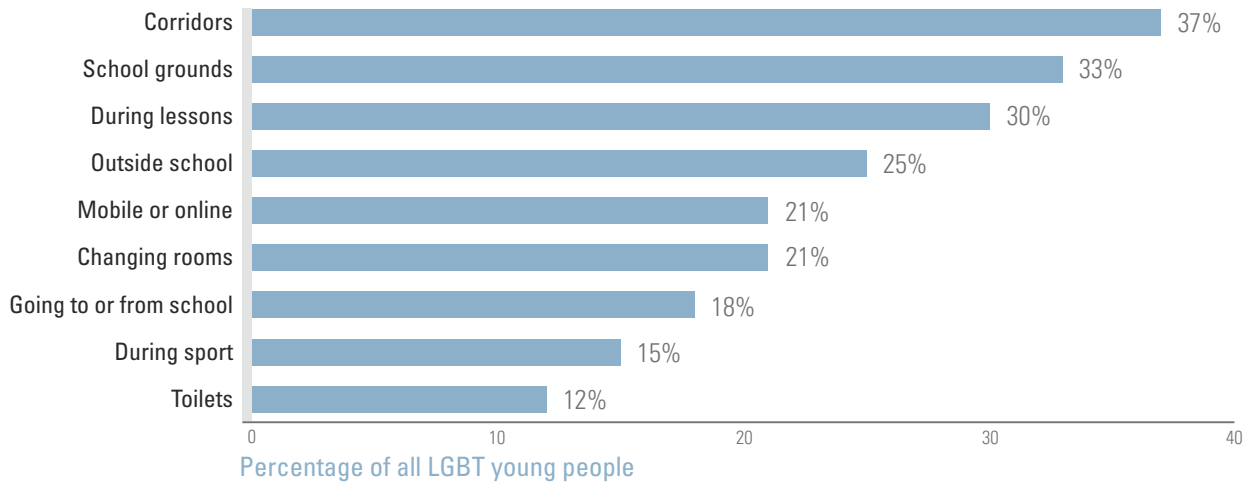
Ryan, 15, secondary school (Glasgow)

**I used to have a running streak of weeks where I would cry after PE because I was stuck in the girls changing rooms and be with the girls.**

Morgan, 14, secondary school (Lothian)

**One in eight** LGBT young people (12 per cent) are bullied in school toilets.

## WHERE DID THE BULLYING TAKE PLACE?



**I was constantly shouted at in corridors and things were thrown at me almost every day.**

Jack, 15, faith secondary school (Glasgow)



## CHAPTER 4

# RESPONDING TO BULLYING AND LANGUAGE

**Bullying for me has been going on for as long as I can remember. I feel as if the school have stopped caring.**

Lucy, 15, secondary school (North East Scotland)

Many LGBT young people in Scotland report that their schools often fail to intervene when homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and language occurs.

While a growing number of Scottish schools say that homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and language is wrong, many still don't, particularly in relation to transphobic bullying and language.

## RESPONSES TO BULLYING

In most cases of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying, school staff and other young people become bystanders.

Just **one in three** bullied LGBT young people (32 per cent) say that teachers intervene when they are present during the bullying. Only **thirteen per cent** say that other school staff who are present intervene, while just **seven per cent** say that head teachers who are present do the same.

**Only certain teachers take action. I've had homophobic terms thrown at me in front of a teacher and nothing was done. She ignored it.**

Niamh, 17, secondary school (Central Scotland)

**I was getting called a 'dyke' by a boy in class and the member of staff kept me behind class to ask me what 'dyke' meant. I then explained to her what it meant, to which she then replied 'if I knew that I would have told him to stop'.**

Matthew, 15, secondary school (Glasgow)

Other young people are more likely than teachers and school staff to intervene when they are present during bullying, although most still don't. Fewer than half of bullied LGBT young people (46 per cent) say that other young people who are present intervene.

**The students never challenge it.**

Abbie, 13, secondary school (Mid Scotland and Fife)

## REPORTING BULLYING

**More than two in five** LGBT young people who experience homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying (44 per cent) never tell anyone about it.

There are many reasons why LGBT young people don't tell anyone that they are experiencing homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. Feelings of shame about the bullying and shame about their own sexual orientation or gender identity prevent some from seeking help, while many are not confident that they can turn to adults for help in tackling bullying:

**Because the teachers made fun of trans people I was too scared to tell anyone about it.**

Jesse, 17, FE college (Lothian)

**I didn't feel my problem was worth bothering anyone for.**

Sam, 16, secondary school (Mid Scotland and Fife)

**My parents would have said it is my fault for appearing/acting 'lesbian'.**

Jemma, 19, now in employment (Scotland)

## RESPONSES TO LANGUAGE

Homophobic, biphobic and transphobic language in Scottish schools often goes unchallenged by teachers, school staff and young people who hear it.

**Staff don't usually hear other people use it and students usually never report it.**

Harrison, 17, secondary school (Glasgow)

Just **three in ten** LGBT young people (28 per cent) report that teachers or school staff consistently challenge this language when they hear it. **Seven in ten** LGBT young people (72 per cent) report that teachers or school staff only 'sometimes' (52 per cent) or 'never' (20 per cent) challenge this language when they hear it.

**Some teachers are active in working against it whereas some let it slide or encourage it.**

Natasha, 17, secondary school (Scotland)

**Teachers now do not bother to challenge such language.**

Jamie, 17, secondary school (Highlands and Islands)

Often, homophobic, biphobic or transphobic language is perceived as harmless banter, despite its real impact.

**People in my year call each other 'gay' as a joke and personally I find it quite hurtful but none of the teachers really seem to care. They don't do anything about it.**

Eilidh, 15, secondary school (Lothian)

**I occasionally get taunting and gossip from my colleagues due to my slightly effeminate appearance and nature. This is seen as 'banter' in my social circles, so it isn't called out by other students.**

Jack, 19, FE college (West Scotland)

**I know people are not doing it in a hateful way. Whenever words like 'poof' are used it's done in a comedic manner, and is not intended to be insulting.**

Fraser, 18, now at University (North East Scotland)

Other young people are less likely than teachers and school staff to challenge homophobic, biphobic and transphobic language when they hear it. **One in six** LGBT young people (17 per cent) report that other young people consistently challenge this language when they hear it. **More than four in five** LGBT young people (83 per cent) report that other young people only 'sometimes' (51 per cent) or 'never' (32 per cent) challenge this language when they hear it.

**Nearly all students have said something negative, and there is only a small amount of people who realise it's actually very wrong and stand up against it.**

Sophie, 12, faith secondary school (Glasgow)

## ANTI-BULLYING AND LANGUAGE POLICIES

**Seven in ten** LGBT young people (68 per cent) report that their schools say homophobic and biphobic bullying is wrong. Just **four in ten** (41 per cent) report that their schools say transphobic bullying is wrong.

**More than three in five** LGBT young people (63 per cent) say that their schools say homophobic and biphobic language is wrong. In particular, **nearly three in five** LGBT young people (57 per cent) report that their school says using the word 'gay' in a negative way is wrong.

Just **two in five** LGBT young people (40 per cent) report that their schools say using transphobic language is wrong.

**Schools should have specific anti-bullying policies so that both staff and young people feel more comfortable speaking out.**

Alasdair, 17, secondary school (Highlands and Islands)





## CHAPTER 5

# TEACHING ABOUT LESBIAN, GAY, BI AND TRANS ISSUES

Many LGBT young people are never taught about LGBT issues in Scottish schools.

**Two in five** LGBT young people in Scottish schools (41 per cent) are never taught anything about LGBT issues in school or college.

**Beyond a brief acknowledgement in PSHE that same-sex relationships exist, and that bullying is not OK, we've been taught nothing.**

Daniel, 17, secondary school (Central Scotland)

## TEACHING ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX

While most LGBT young people receive some form of school teaching about having healthy relationships and practicing safe sex, very few have learnt about this in relation to same-sex relationships.

**It is very upsetting when a teacher talks about couples and stuff and always identifies them as heterosexual.**

Aimee, 14, secondary school (West Scotland)

**The way the teachers speak in PSE/sex ed is as if no one is LGBT or may have gay sex or a gay relationship.**

Jordan, 14, secondary school (North East Scotland)

Just **one in five** LGBT young people (19 per cent) have learnt about where to go for help and advice about same-sex relationships at school.

**I have friends from different places all over Scotland who are all different sexualities and genders who gave me advice on coming out and things, but so many people don't so they have to figure things out online.**

Kerry, 15, secondary school (South Scotland)

While the vast majority of LGBT young people – **87 per cent** – have learnt about contraception and safe sex at school, just **one in five** (22 per cent) have learnt about this in relation to same-sex relationships.

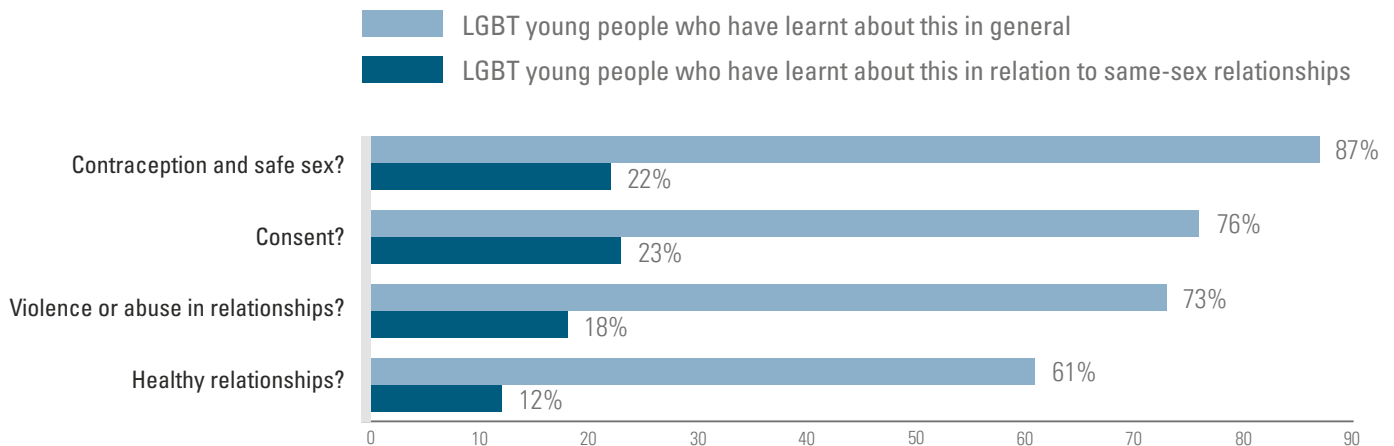
**I brought up gay sex and the teacher said to go on the NHS website as she doesn't teach it.**

Jordan, 14, secondary school (North East Scotland)

Only **12 per cent** of LGBT young people have learnt about how to have healthy relationships in relation to same-sex relationships.

Just **one in four** LGBT young people (23 per cent) have learnt about consent in relation to same-sex relationships and only **one in five** (18 per cent) have learnt about violence or abuse in relation to same-sex relationships.

## HAVE YOU LEARNT ABOUT...



## TEACHING ON WIDER LGBT ISSUES

Most LGBT young people in Scotland say that they have never been taught key information about what it means to be LGBT at school.

**I think there needs to be a fundamental rethink about how we teach young people about sex, love and relationships. LGBT issues need to be an important part of our curriculum in order for us to truly feel we are part of an equal society.**

Joshua, 19, now in employment (Lothian)

**Three in five** LGBT young people (61 per cent) have never been taught that same-sex couples can get married and have civil partnerships (same-sex couples have been legally allowed to marry in Scotland since 2014). **More than four in five** (84 per cent) have never learnt about the different ways same-sex couples can have children.

**Three in four** LGBT young people (75 per cent) have never learnt about or discussed bisexuality at school.

**We were told that people could be gay, but the terms bisexual or LGBT were never used.**

Jason, 19, now at University (Glasgow)

**Four in five** LGBT young people (78 per cent) have never been taught about or discussed gender identity and what 'trans' means. Just **one in ten** LGBT young people (9 per cent) have learnt about where to go for help and advice about being trans.

**I would like to learn about gender identification more, and I think it would have been good for me when I was younger and struggling with who I am.**

Aimee, 14, secondary school (West Scotland)

Of those young people who learn about LGBT issues at school, most report that teaching about LGBT issues is limited to specific areas of the curriculum. Just **one in seven** LGBT young people (14 per cent) have been taught about or discussed LGBT issues in wider classes, such as English or Geography.

**It has never been formally discussed. My English teacher, however, is gay and will occasionally talk about an LGBT subject.**

Ben, 13, secondary school (Mid Scotland and Fife)

**I feel a lot of young people would benefit from learning more about this topic and I think it could even lower levels of homophobia in school towards other students. LGBT students may feel safer and more comfortable knowing they're being represented.**

Courtney, 15, secondary school (Central Scotland)



## CHAPTER 6

# SUPPORT FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BI AND TRANS YOUNG PEOPLE

While a growing number of schools in Scotland are taking vital steps to support their LGBT young people, many are not.

**Nearly half** of LGBT young people (45 per cent) say that there isn't an adult at school they can talk to about being LGBT.

**The bullying went on for years and still does. I'm totally alone and denying who I am.**

Rachel, 16, secondary school (Scotland)

**Just over a third** of LGBT young people (37 per cent) say that their school provides information on LGBT topics and relevant signposting to LGBT resources and organisations, and only **three in ten** (28 per cent) say that their school tells them where they can access information online about LGBT issues. **One in three** LGBT young people (32 per cent) say that their school stocks books and films with LGBT characters in the school library.

**I put up pro-LGBT posters as part of a mental health group I run, which were subsequently taken down by the headteacher who claimed it was not very Catholic.**

Nicole, 17, faith secondary school (West Scotland)

**Two in five** LGBT young people (41 per cent) say that their school has an LGBT group for young people.

**Some people set up an LGBT+ group that meets up in a private discreet room every Monday lunchtime, which I think is a good support for those struggling with their sexual orientation/gender identity. Through this, I now know a handful of teachers that I can talk to about my sexuality if I need to .**

Caitlin, 17, secondary school (Lothian)

**My role models come from teachers within the school that helped and supported me throughout my time there and I am still in regular contact with them after leaving. We have now established an LGBT group and are going for the LGBT charter award.**

Liv, 17, secondary school (Glasgow)

**One in seven** LGBT young people (14 per cent) say their head teacher has talked openly about LGBT equality, for instance in assemblies. **One in six** (16 per cent) say their school has invited speakers in to talk about LGBT equality.

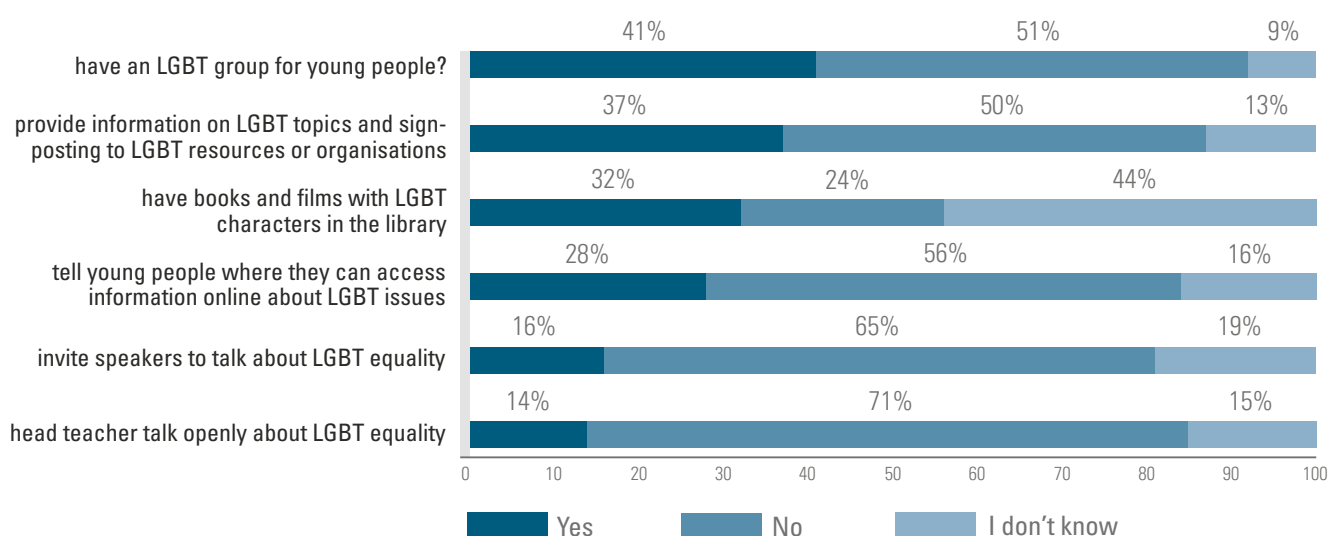
**If an authority figure, such as the headmaster in morning assemblies, specifically addressed these issues and created a space for discourse, perhaps the frequency of bullying would go down because students would see that it is something to be condemned, not gotten away with.**

Shannon, 19, now at University (West Scotland)

**My school decided to brush over these issues and pretend they didn't exist – those that were openly gay would have their parents phoned by the school to inform them.**

David, 18, now at University (Glasgow)

## DOES YOUR SCHOOL...



**More than two in five** LGBT young people (43 per cent) know of at least one member of school staff who is openly LGBT.

LGBT young people are far more likely to know of openly gay or lesbian members of staff than of staff who are openly bi or trans.

**Three in ten** LGBT young people (28 per cent) know of an openly gay member of staff, and **23 per cent** know of an openly lesbian member of staff, compared to just **four per cent** who know of an openly bi member of staff, and only **two per cent** who know of an openly trans member of staff.

**My guidance teacher at school was openly lesbian, so it made it easier knowing if I needed someone to talk to she was there.**

Steven, 18, now in employment (Lothian)

## SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR TRANS YOUNG PEOPLE

Some schools in Scotland are taking crucial steps to ensure their trans young people are supported to be themselves at school. However, many trans young people report that this support is lacking, or does not extend into all areas of school life.

**More than half** of trans young people (53 per cent) say that staff at their school are not familiar with the term 'trans' and what it means.

**I had to explain what it meant to be a trans person to my guidance teacher.**

Rhys, 18, now at University (West Scotland)

**More than a third** of trans young people (37 per cent) do not speak to a member of staff at school about being trans.

## SUPPORTING TRANS YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE THEMSELVES AT SCHOOL

While many trans young people are supported at school to be known by their preferred name and wear clothing or uniform in line with their gender identity, for many this support doesn't extend to certain areas of school life.

**Two in three** trans young people (65 per cent) say that they are not able to use the toilets they feel comfortable in at school.

**In my school I have to use the disabled toilets as I am too scared to do otherwise.**

Liam, 16, secondary school (West Scotland)

**Seven in ten** trans young people (71 per cent) say that they are not able to use the changing rooms they feel comfortable in, and **two in three** (66 per cent) say they are not able to play for the sports team they feel comfortable in.

**In my second week of being out as trans at school I used the boys changing rooms and got no hassle or questions.**

Kyle, 13, secondary school (North East Scotland)

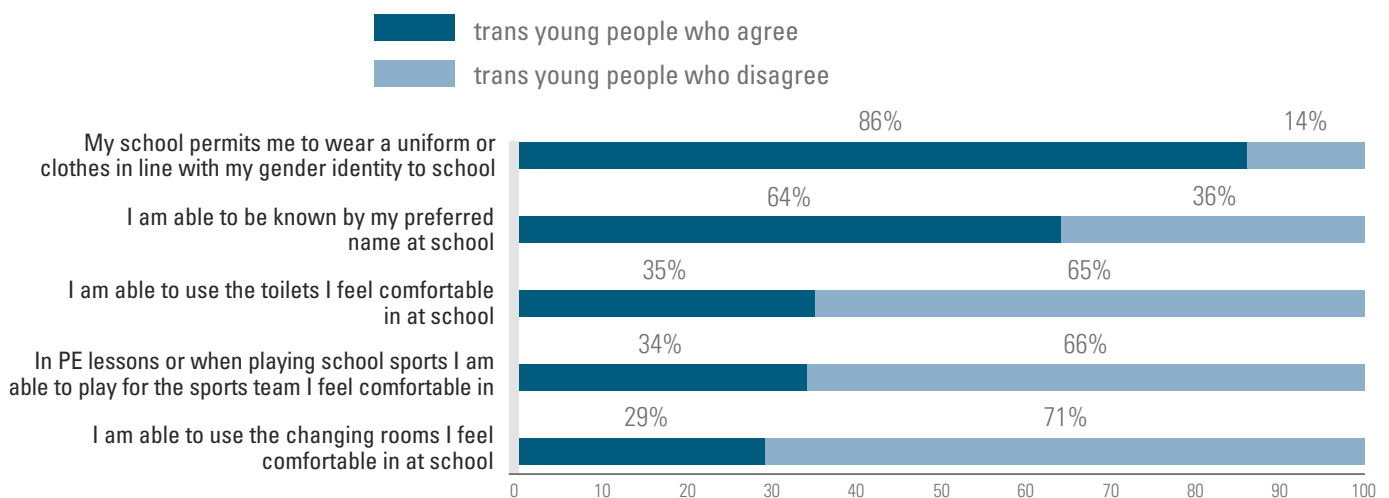
**More than a third** of trans young people (36 per cent) are not able to be known their preferred name at school.

**Teachers did not use my pronouns or my name. It was humiliating.**

Jesse, 17, FE college (Lothian)

**One in seven** trans young people (14 per cent) say they cannot wear clothes and uniform in line with their gender identity at school.

## SUPPORT FOR TRANS YOUNG PEOPLE





## CHAPTER 7

# WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

While a growing number of LGBT young people enjoy a positive learning environment in Scottish schools, for many this isn't the case. LGBT young people in Scotland continue to experience unacceptably high rates of poor mental health, with trans young people being at particular risk.

## A PART OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

**One in four** LGBT young people in Scotland (24 per cent) – including **half** of trans young people (51 per cent) – don't feel safe in their school. **Nearly half** of LGBT young people (45 per cent) worry about being bullied at school; for trans young people in particular, this rises to **58 per cent**.

**Nearly half** of LGBT young people (46 per cent) – including **57 per cent** of trans young people – don't feel able to be themselves at school.

**Getting asked every day if I was gay numerous times throughout the day made me not want to be myself in front of anyone and really lowered my confidence.**

Milo, 18, now in employment (West Scotland)

**Not being able to be myself takes a real toll on my mental health. Maybe one day I won't have to suppress who I am but I honestly don't have much hope for that.**

Nick, 17, now in employment (Lothian)

**Two in five** LGBT young people (42 per cent) including **seven in ten** trans young people (70 per cent) – don't enjoy going to school. **Half** of LGBT young people (48 per cent) don't feel part of their school community; for trans young people in particular, this rises to **60 per cent**.

**Though I wouldn't say my school is anti-LGBT, they seem to like to pretend that we don't exist as it's easier for them.**

Finn, 16, secondary school (North East Scotland)

## ATTAINMENT, ASPIRATION AND SKIPPING SCHOOL

Many bullied LGBT young people report that this bullying has had a significant impact on their learning and future plans.

**It definitely demolishes any sense of self-worth or achievement. It makes you not want to stay in school.**

Natalie, 14, secondary school (West Scotland)

**More than half** of bullied LGBT young people in Scotland (56 per cent) feel that homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying has had a negative effect on their plans for future education.

**I worry about going to university and being placed in accommodation with homophobic people.**

Oliver, 16, secondary school (North East Scotland)

**One in five** LGBT young people overall (21 per cent) have considered changing schools because their school is not a supportive environment for them as an LGBT person, and **five per cent** of LGBT young people have gone on to change schools for this reason.

**I moved from a state comprehensive school, where every day I would hear homophobic language, even from teachers. At best, gay people were treated as laughing stock, and at worse, as sick and diseased people. Since moving to an independent school which is part of the Stonewall Champions programme, my happiness and confidence has improved immensely.**

Joseph, 19, now at University (Glasgow)

**I lost confidence and the power to succeed and get the best qualifications. I left because I was scared and I didn't belong in that environment.**

George, 16, faith secondary school (Scotland)

**More than two in five** bullied LGBT young people (43 per cent) have skipped school because of bullying about being LGBT. More broadly, **three in four** LGBT young people (73 per cent) have skipped school overall.

**I'll occasionally pretend to be sick so I don't have to go to school and be harassed.**

Paul, 15, secondary school (Glasgow)

**A few months after coming out, all of my then 'best friends' began ignoring me and all blocked me on all social media. I was told that one of the girls was very against me being trans and made the others ignore me. I was already struggling with bad anxiety and depression so this situation made it worse and caused me to skip school a lot to avoid certain people.**

Andrew, 17, secondary school (Glasgow)

**Five per cent** of LGBT young people have been excluded from school.

## MENTAL HEALTH

Rates of poor mental health are alarmingly high among LGBT young people in Scotland, with trans young people at particular risk.

**Nearly all** trans young people (96 per cent) have deliberately harmed themselves at some point. For lesbian, gay and bi young people who are not trans, **three in five** (58 per cent) have self-harmed. This compares to NHS estimates that roughly **one in ten** young people in Britain overall have deliberately harmed themselves.

**One of my teachers makes fun of my self-harm. He notices my arms and turns it into a joke.**

Phoebe, 17, secondary school

**Nearly all** trans young people (98 per cent) have thought about taking their own life. For lesbian, gay and bi young people who are not trans, **seven in ten** (70 per cent) have thought about this. This is far higher than for young people in general: Young Minds estimates that **one in four** young people in Britain overall have had these thoughts.

**More than two in five** trans young people (43 per cent) have at some point attempted to take their own life. For lesbian, gay and bi young people who are not trans, **one in four** (24 per cent) have tried to take their own life.

**I felt that until I attempted suicide the school didn't take my bullying seriously. Even then the bullies were never even really spoken to.**

Mhairi, 17, secondary school (Highlands and Islands)

**Hearing the word faggot on a daily basis doesn't do much for my self-confidence.**

Arran, 16, secondary school (Glasgow)



## CHAPTER 8

# LIFE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

While the internet provides most LGBT young people in Scotland with vital opportunities to find support and information about being LGBT, it can also present significant risks.

At home, many LGBT young people in Scotland don't have an adult they can talk to about being LGBT, and LGBT charities, youth groups and organisations are often vital sources of support.

## GOING ONLINE

### SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

Many LGBT young people in Scotland use the internet to help them to understand themselves, find positive role models and find information and support.

**Nearly all** LGBT young people (96 per cent) say the internet has helped them understand more about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, and **91 per cent** say the Internet has helped them find advice and support about this.

**Nearly all** LGBT young people (94 per cent) say the internet has helped them find positive role models.

**Seeing healthy and positive LGBT+ people on the internet saved my life. Seeing people being genuinely happy with their life and being LGBT+ gave me hope.**

Zach, 16, secondary school (Glasgow)

**Nine in ten** LGBT young people (89 per cent) say they can be themselves online.

**Being on the internet has allowed me to be myself completely, unlike in real life. At school I feel like I'm not myself at all, but on the internet I have many friends and they're all supportive.**

Courtney, 15, secondary school (Central Scotland)

For many LGBT young people, the internet gives them the opportunity to talk to and meet other LGBT young people.

**My large group of online friends, a massive majority of whom are LGBT, have made me feel so much more comfortable with my sexuality. Without them, I wouldn't have come out to my school friends.**

Natasha, 17, secondary school (Scotland)

### HOMOPHOBIC, BIPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC ABUSE AND CONTENT

The internet, however, also presents significant risks for LGBT young people. **More than two in five** LGBT young people (44 per cent) have been the target of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic abuse online. In particular, **more than half** of trans young people (53 per cent) have received this abuse.

**I got online messages calling me a 'tranny faggot' and telling me to 'kys' (kill your self).**

Corey, 14, secondary school (North East Scotland)



**A rumour was started about my ex girlfriend and I having 'sexual activity' in the school toilet. It started on Twitter and distressed me greatly.**

Max, 17, secondary school (Central Scotland)

**My best friend hacked my account and edited my account page to make fun of me.**

Craig, 18, FE college (South Scotland)

**More than three quarters** of LGBT young people who have been bullied online (78 per cent) did not report the abuse to the website, game or app it happened on.

Even if not directly targeted by homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying online, many LGBT young people witness homophobia, biphobia and transphobia online regularly.

**Nearly all** LGBT young people (98 per cent) see homophobic, biphobic and transphobic content online, and **more than two in five** (44 per cent) see this content 'often'. This content can take the form of offensive posts, comments, pictures and videos about LGBT people, including in online games.

When they have seen this content, **two in five** (39 per cent) reported it to the site, game or app.

Overall, **three in five** LGBT young people (62 per cent) think that companies are unlikely to do anything about tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic content or incidents when it is reported to them.

## RISKY ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

The internet can also present LGBT young people with opportunities to engage in risky behaviour. Of LGBT young people aged 13 to 19, **two in five** (39 per cent) have met up with someone they met and talked to online. In some cases LGBT young people meet people who are older than them, or do not tell anyone that they are meeting someone.

**One in five** LGBT under-18s (21 per cent) have used adult dating apps such as Tinder, Grindr and Her.

**Half** of LGBT young people aged 13 to 19 (51 per cent) have sent or received sexual, naked or semi-naked photos to or from a person they were talking to online.

## SUPPORT AT HOME AND IN THE COMMUNITY

Just **two in five** LGBT young people in Scotland (41 per cent) have an adult at home they can talk to about being LGBT.

Charities and local youth services can be a key source of support for LGBT young people. **One in six** LGBT young people (16 per cent) have contacted an LGBT organisation for support or information about being LGBT, and **one in five** (21 per cent) have attended a local LGBT youth service, such as an LGBT youth group.

**One in four** trans young people (25 per cent) have contacted a trans organisation or attended a trans youth group for support or information about being trans.

**Being part of the LGBT community has meant so much to me in the past few years. Through events like Pride, LGBT youth groups and workshops I have met wonderful people who all celebrate and accept each other.**

Ella, 17, secondary school (Central Scotland)

## ROLE MODELS, ALLIES AND ASPIRATIONS

Openly LGBT role models and allies at home, at school, in the local community or in the public eye play a crucial role in supporting many LGBT young people to be themselves.

**Seeing TV shows or reading books with LGBT representation makes a huge difference. It makes me feel safe and just reminds me that I'm not alone.**

Courtney, 15, secondary school (Central Scotland)

**My friend and I support each other - I admire them as they are out and confident with their identity.**

Brooke, 14, secondary school (Central Scotland)

**My mum isn't LGBT+ but accepts anyone no matter what their identity and I admire her for that.**

Ruaraidh, 15, faith secondary school (Glasgow)

**When I started doing volunteering with an anti-stigma mental health programme the person who ran that really helped me accept my sexuality and know it is okay to be gay! It is okay not to dress to gender stereotypes! I don't know if I would have come out if I had never met her. I owe her my life really.**

Molly, 18, now in employment (Mid Scotland and Fife)

**My friends have been amazing. They are such positive people and don't treat me any differently. If anything, I feel more accepted because I am being my full self.**

Elsa, 19, now at University (Central Scotland)

**My biggest role model is my Great-Gran. She's an amazing woman that's been so supportive of my transition and she calls out people who say something bad about me.**

Noah, 17, secondary school (Glasgow)

**My friend group was extremely LGBT-positive, we had discussions about sexuality and challenged each other's biases.**

Anna, 18, now at University (Central Scotland)

**Many LGBT Youtubers are a big support, for a generation that turns to the internet with its troubles, seeing people similar to yourself is a big help.**

Ali, 17, secondary school (Glasgow)

**My uncle, although straight, has been a huge support and influence on my life when I came out - he was the first person I told.**

Charlotte, 16, faith secondary school (Lothian)

Looking ahead, LGBT young people shared their hopes and aspirations for the future.

**I want to fully transition, and become a professional actor. I'd like to inspire other young LGBT and be a role model to them.**

Jim, 16, secondary school (South Scotland)

**I hope to become an active voice in the community and help to make a difference to young LGBT people's lives by helping to improve the education they receive about being LGBT, and hope to contribute to making the media industry more diverse in terms of representation.**

Mary, 18, now at University (North East Scotland)

**I want to have children, preferably two boys, whether with my husband or on my own if need be.**

Fraser, 18, now at University (North East Scotland)

**I want to be happy in life and spend it with someone that loves me for who I am.**

Steven, 18, now in employment (Lothian)



# RECOMMENDATIONS: SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND TEACHERS

## 1. GET THE BASICS RIGHT

Schools and colleges should have clear and widely promoted policies and procedures on preventing and tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and language, including online abuse. All incidents of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying should be taken seriously and quickly acted upon.

## 2. SHOW CLEAR LEADERSHIP

Head teachers and senior management should send out a strong message to all students and staff that homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and language is not acceptable. They should also be clear on the importance of creating an inclusive learning environment for all young people.

## 3. CREATE AN INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM

Schools should ensure that LGBT people and experiences are reflected across the curriculum, to celebrate difference and make the diversity of LGBT people visible. They should ensure that sex and relationships education (SRE) takes the needs and experiences of LGBT people into account, including in discussions around online safety.

## 4. EQUIP YOUR STAFF

Creating an inclusive environment and tackling homophobia, biphobia and transphobia should be seen as the responsibility of every member of staff. All teaching and non-teaching staff should be trained on tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and language. Teaching staff should also be trained on online safety, supporting LGBT young people and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

## 5. CELEBRATE DIFFERENCE

Ensure that every part of your school or college can celebrate difference and create an inclusive environment for all young people. Schools and colleges should profile diverse LGBT role models by welcoming external speakers and by creating an environment where LGBT teachers can be open about their identity.

## 6. PROVIDE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

Schools and colleges should provide information on LGBT topics and signposting to online resources and LGBT organisations, including local LGBT youth groups, to all young people. They should stock resources and books including LGBT characters and issues in the library, and provide information and signposting to parents and carers of LGBT young people.



## 7. PROVIDE SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR TRANS YOUNG PEOPLE

Explicit references to supporting trans young people should be included in all relevant policies, which are understood by all members of staff. Staff should work together with each trans young person to ask them what would make them feel comfortable and discuss levels of confidentiality, and ensure they have access to uniforms, activities and facilities they feel most comfortable in. Clear signposting should be given to resources and local support.

## 8. PROTECT HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Schools and colleges should have a plan in place to support the health and wellbeing needs of LGBT young people. Guidance, pastoral and support staff should be trained to support the specific health and wellbeing needs of LGBT young people, and where possible, all teachers should be trained on mental health first aid. Schools and colleges should make it clear to all young people that they can talk to pastoral staff about issues related to their gender identity and sexual orientation, and should let them know what support and counselling is available to them.

## 9. INVOLVE LGBT YOUNG PEOPLE

Plans to tackle bullying and support LGBT young people should be drawn up in consultation with LGBT young people, and schools should create opportunities for LGBT young people to talk to staff about their experiences and the support they require. LGBT young people and allies to the LGBT community should be supported to set up their own LGBT and equality groups. Staff should avoid making assumptions about who is LGBT, and should support a young person to use the words of their choice to describe their sexual orientation and gender identity.

## 10. WORK WITH PARENTS, CARERS AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Schools and colleges should talk to parents and carers about their work to combat homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and support LGBT young people, and answer any questions they might have. Schools and colleges should work collaboratively with local authorities, schools, LGBT youth groups, youth services including child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and other organisations to share best practice and support their work to support LGBT young people and tackle bullying.



## RECOMMENDATIONS: KEY PARTNERS

### THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD:

- Develop a national approach to supporting LGBT young people, including ensuring that training on LGBT issues is properly resourced and accessible to all staff in schools and colleges, and that LGBT issues are included in education consistently across the country
- Publish their Anti Bullying Strategy as soon as possible, with a clear focus on addressing and preventing prejudice-based bullying
- Develop clear guidance for local authorities to ensure that homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying is recorded and monitored in all Scottish schools, and work with local authorities, schools, and third sector agencies to ensure this is effectively implemented

### EDUCATION SCOTLAND SHOULD:

- Work with Scottish Government on a national approach to supporting LGBT young people, focusing on LGBT-inclusive education to ensure that LGBT issues are included in education consistently across the country
- Ensure that school inspections address efforts to tackle and prevent homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and support LGBT young people, including staff practices and policies. As well as forming part of the inspection framework, this should be supported by ongoing training for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) staff
- Work together with NHS Scotland, to ensure that sex and relationships education guidance is inclusive of LGBT identities and relationships, and that it is implemented consistently
- Work in partnership with Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, to create guidance for teachers on hate crimes and sexual offences in schools



## GENERAL TEACHING COUNCIL SCOTLAND (GTCS) SHOULD:

- Clearly embed LGBT issues within initial teacher training as a core part of the curriculum, to ensure that all new teachers are confident in supporting LGBT young people

## LOCAL AUTHORITIES SHOULD:

- Provide funded training on LGBT issues for all teachers and school staff, including probationers, such as through Stonewall Scotland's Train the Trainer model
- Ensure that all schools have toilet and changing facilities that meet the needs of trans young people' including providing gender-neutral facilities in all new buildings
- Facilitate links between LGBT youth groups and schools, ensuring that schools can signpost young people to local LGBT specific support
- Provide effective mental health support for students and ensure that this is accessible and inclusive of LGBT young people's needs

## COME OUT FOR LGBT:

Whether you're a teacher, a parent or a young person, we need you to **Come Out For LGBT**.

Join Stonewall's Come out for LGBT campaign and show your support for LGBT Young People. Encourage your friends, family and colleagues to join the campaign: [www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/scotlandcomeoutforlgbt](http://www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/scotlandcomeoutforlgbt)

## FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND PARENTS:

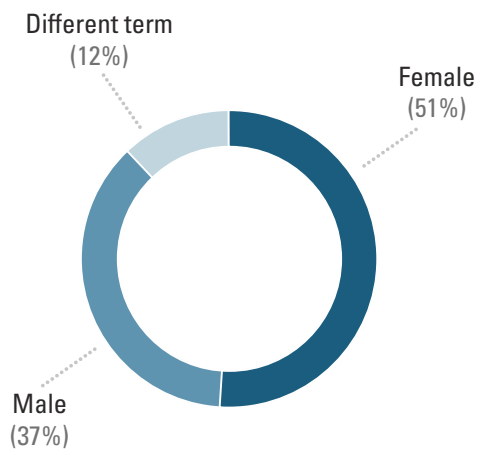
This report is aimed at schools, councils and policy makers such as the Scottish Government. However, if you're a young person or a parent, you can use it as a tool to help create more inclusive schools. Use it to ask your school, or your child's school, what they're doing to ensure that teachers are properly trained on LGBT issues, and how they're supporting LGBT young people.

# METHODOLOGY

Between November 2016 and February 2017, 402 LGBT young people aged 11-19 from across Scotland completed an online questionnaire asking about their experiences at school, online and at home.

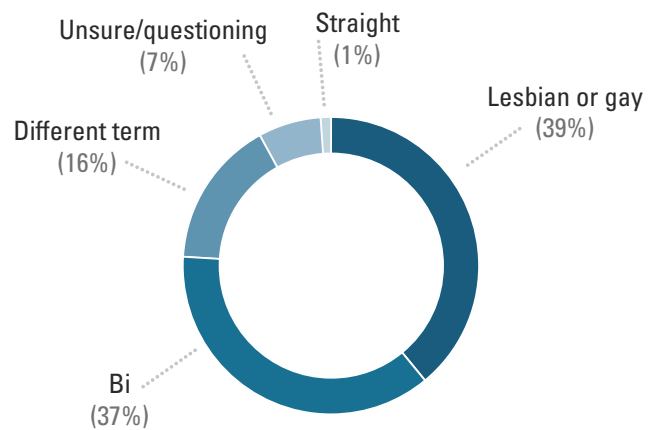
## THE SAMPLE

### GENDER



Different terms that respondents used to describe their gender identity included 'non-binary', 'genderfluid' and 'genderqueer'. Young people who used a different term to describe their gender identity are referred to as non-binary young people throughout the report.

### SEXUAL ORIENTATION



Different terms that respondents used to describe their sexual orientation include 'pansexual' and 'queer'.

Seventeen per cent of respondents (68 young people) said that they are trans and a further seven per cent (29 young people) said that they are unsure of whether they are trans or are questioning their gender identity.

All differences reported in the survey are statistically significant. All names in quotes have been changed for anonymity.

# SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

## STONEWALL PROGRAMMES

**Stonewall's School Champions programme** is a network of primary and secondary schools across the country working together and with Stonewall to tackle homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. Schools can join by attending a Stonewall Train the Trainer course, which gives school staff the knowledge, tools and confidence to train their colleagues on tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and creating an inclusive learning environment for all young people.

**For more information** email [education@stonewallscotland.org.uk](mailto:education@stonewallscotland.org.uk)

**Stonewall Education Champions programme** provides tailored support to local authorities and academy chains in their work to prevent and tackle homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in their schools and inclusive learning environments for all young people.

**For more information** email [education@stonewallscotland.org.uk](mailto:education@stonewallscotland.org.uk)

**Stonewall Young Campaigners programme** is a free five-month programme open to all UK-based 16 to 21 year olds, kindly supported by Lloyds Banking Group. The programme provides young people with the training and support needed for them to start campaigning in schools, colleges, universities and communities to tackle discrimination against LGBT people.

**For more information** visit [www.youngstonewall.org.uk](http://www.youngstonewall.org.uk)

## STONEWALL RESOURCES

Stonewall has a wide range of resources to help schools address homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying, support LGBT young people and celebrate difference. Find these online at

[www.stonewall.org.uk/educationresources](http://www.stonewall.org.uk/educationresources)

## GET IN TOUCH WITH STONEWALL SCOTLAND

**Stonewall Scotland**

[education@stonewallscotland.org.uk](mailto:education@stonewallscotland.org.uk)

0131 474 8019

[www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/education](http://www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/education)

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

 [@stonewallscot](https://twitter.com/stonewallscot)



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# SCHOOL REPORT SCOTLAND

The experiences of  
lesbian, gay, bi and trans  
young people in Scotland's  
schools in 2017

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I moved from a state comprehensive school, where every day I would hear homophobic language, even from teachers. At best, gay people were treated as laughing stock, and at worse, as sick and diseased people. Since moving to an independent school which is part of the Stonewall Champions programme, my happiness and confidence has improved immensely. I came out in a low-key way, and it was accepted as something very normal. I was never questioned about it, called names, or left out, always included and made to feel normal, which meant a lot to me. Some teachers were out and while I never had any lessons explicitly on gay relationships, it was something we could openly talk about at lunch, or in English or History lessons. Acceptance is a wonderful feeling and I encourage Stonewall to help other schools in promoting such a positive, zero-tolerance policy as I experienced. It has made me the person I am today and has given me strength for challenges I may face in the future.  
Joseph, 19, now at University (Glasgow)

Stonewall Scotland

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 @StonewallScot

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Design: [www.createpod.com](http://www.createpod.com)

 **Stonewall**  
Scotland