

# Who am I in relation to others?

## *Relationships*

Deep Learning Day: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Learning Intentions

Learning Outcome

What do we mean  
by “relationships”?

### Class rules

How do we show respect to other people's feelings? This is crucial for our work on “relationships” today.

**Homophobia** is a form of bullying; it is a *prejudice* against lesbian, gay or bisexual people. This can involve name-calling, physical abuse and/or cyber-bullying which can all lead to emotional anxieties in the victim.

**Why focus on “homophobia” to answer the question of “Who am I in relation to others”?**

- ✓ It’s a fact of life – some people are gay!
- ✓ The use of words such as “gay”, “poof” and “queer” are often used by young people in schools without realising the impact this can have on people who are actually gay.
- ✓ Recent research shows that *homophobic bullying* is the most frequent form of bullying in schools after bullying because of someone’s weight.

**FIT** tells the individual stories of six young people. They all have one thing in common - they are part of a dance group. The story explores each of their feelings and anxieties and the homophobia that may surround their actions.

**Learning Activity 1**

Read each of the ‘fact-files’ of the six characters. Decide whether you think each one is *gay* or *straight*.



**Name: Isaac**  
**Age: 18**  
**Hobbies: rollerblading, PlayStation, collecting baseball caps, street dance, hip-hop and ragga music**



**Name: Lee**  
**Age: 17**  
**Hobbies: basketball, street dance, graffiti art, Joelly D the popstar, karaoke**



**Name: Ryan**  
**Age: 18**  
**Hobbies: football, martial arts, RnB singing, PlayStation, sci-fi, street dance**



**Name: Tegs**  
**Age: 17**  
**Hobbies: reading, online gaming, indie rock, street dance, tap dancing**



**Name: Jordan**  
**Age: 17**  
**Hobbies: football, MCing, street dance, boxing**



**Name: Karmel**  
**Age: 17**  
**Hobbies: fashion, shopping, beauty, drama, street dance**

**Gay or straight?**

Isaac - Lee -

Ryan - Tegs -

Jordan - Karmel -



# Lee's story...

Key term: **Stereotyping** is to generalise about a person/group of people (which is usually negative).

Is Lee a stereotypical girl?

Why do people think Lee is a lesbian?

How should boys and girls “act” and behave”?

What would you do if you found out your best friend was gay?

These are examples of ‘**gender stereotyping**’.



# Karmel's story...

Key term: **'Coming out'** is a figure of speech for gay, lesbian and bisexual people who tell other people about their sexuality (when they are ready to do so).

Why do you think Karmel has not told her family or friends that she is a lesbian?

Were you surprised to find out that Karmel was a lesbian? Why?

Why do gay people feel the need to "come out"?  
Why don't straight people "come out"?



# Tegs's story...

<p>Why does Tegs like Jordan so much? What do you think Tegs assumes about Jordan?</p>	<p>What different forms of bullying is Tegs experiencing?</p>
<p>How can Tegs challenge bullying? Why does he decide not to use the knife?</p>	<p>Is it ok for boys to be professional dancers and for girls to play football? Why?</p> <p><i>Gender stereotyping</i> again...</p>



# Jordan's story...

Key term: **'Diversity'** is a state of being different; having a variety.

Do you think Jordan should keep quiet about being gay?

What do you think about Jordan's parents' reaction when he tells them he is gay?

If we agree that 'diversity' in society is a positive, why do you think so few high-profile sportspeople are openly gay?



Having said that, **Gareth Thomas** – a famous Welsh rugby player – 'came out' in 2009 having been married since 2001. He became one of the first high-profile sportsmen to publicly say he is gay. In the present day, there is yet to be any Premier League footballer to 'come out'.



# Isaac's story...

Key term: 'Prejudice' is to make a judgement about someone before actually knowing them.

Why do you think Isaac holds such negative attitudes (*prejudices*) towards gay people?

Why does Isaac get so angry when he finds out his friend, Ryan, is gay?

What would you say about Isaac's home life? Do you think this affects his behaviour with his friends?

Some key facts about homosexuality in the world:

*Homosexuality became legal in England and Wales in 1967. Before this time, gay people could be arrested if they were found out to be gay.*

*There are still a number of countries in which it is illegal to be gay. These are found, mostly, in Africa, Asia and parts of the Caribbean Islands.*

*In the UK, civil partnerships were made legal in 2005. This means a gay couple can have the same legal rights as a straight couple. Note, it is not a 'marriage'.*



## Ryan's story...

Why do you think Ryan is bullying Tegs?

Do you think Ryan's sister knows that he is gay?  
Why do you think Ryan doesn't speak to her  
about it?

## Reflections...

Having watched the stories of six characters, and asked and answered probing questions, what  
have I learned today?

*Am I more aware of homophobia and homophobic language? Has today questioned some of my  
own prejudices? Do I feel more empowered to tackle homophobic bullying?*