

Resources for Principals, School Leaders & Teachers

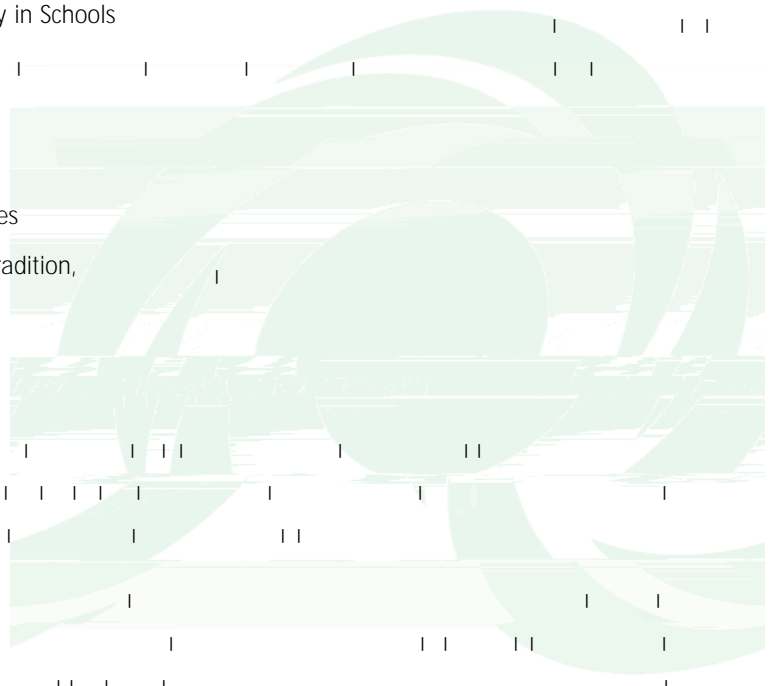
INTRODUCTION

Western Australian Equal Opportunity Commission Resource for Principals, School Leaders and Teachers Guidelines for Supporting Sexual and Gender Diversity in Schools

Safe and Inclusive Learning Communities

The Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition,

National Safe Schools Framework



What is sexuality and gender based bullying?

Writing Themselves In 3

What evidence is there that students are affected by sexuality and gender based bullying?

Writing Themselves In 3

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Who experiences sexuality and gender based bullying? ³

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Who does bullying based on sexual and gender diversity? ⁴

Writing Themselves In 3

Why is this relevant to EREA schools?

Writing Themselves In 3

Writing Themselves In 3

Homophobic bullying. Safe to learning: Embedding anti-bullying work in schools.

Homophobic bullying. Safe to learning: Embedding anti-bullying work in schools.

What is the effect of this type of bullying, discrimination and harassment?¹¹

I am a primary school teacher. I don't think that we need to address LGBTI issues in primary schools.

I think it's important to have a safe and inclusive environment for all children in primary schools. We should address LGBTI issues in a way that is appropriate for their age and understanding. It's not about addressing specific issues, but about creating a supportive and accepting atmosphere where every child feels valued and respected.

Are primary school students too young to understand?

Primary school students are at a stage where they are beginning to understand social norms and differences. It's important to introduce concepts of diversity and inclusion from an early age. This doesn't mean teaching complex theories, but rather fostering an environment of respect and acceptance. Children are naturally curious and open-minded, and we should encourage that curiosity in a positive way.

What about transgender people?

Transgender people are a part of our diverse community, and it's important to ensure that all children, regardless of their gender identity, feel safe and included in school. We should use inclusive language and avoid gender stereotypes. It's about teaching children to respect and accept everyone for who they are. We can start by using gender-neutral terms and ensuring that all children have access to appropriate facilities and resources.

What do I do if teachers feel strongly that we should not be discussing this information in our school?

Teachers may feel that discussing LGBTI issues is inappropriate or controversial. It's important to have a conversation with them to understand their concerns. You can explain that providing accurate information about LGBTI topics is a part of a comprehensive sex education curriculum. Emphasize that the goal is to educate and support all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. You can also discuss the importance of creating a safe and inclusive school environment for all students.

What if teachers think that these issues are too controversial?

Teachers may have concerns about the controversy surrounding LGBTI issues. It's important to acknowledge their concerns and provide them with resources and support. You can explain that providing accurate information about LGBTI topics is a part of a comprehensive sex education curriculum. Emphasize that the goal is to educate and support all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. You can also discuss the importance of creating a safe and inclusive school environment for all students.

What if people say that I am advocating a homosexual agenda?

Some people may mistakenly believe that providing accurate information about LGBTI topics is advocating a homosexual agenda. It's important to clarify that the goal is to provide comprehensive sex education that includes information about all types of human relationships and sexual orientation. Emphasize that the goal is to educate and support all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. You can also discuss the importance of creating a safe and inclusive school environment for all students.

What if teachers tell me that no LGBTI students exist in their schools or classrooms?

Teachers may not be aware of the presence of LGBTI students in their schools or classrooms. It's important to provide them with information about the importance of creating a safe and inclusive school environment for all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. You can also discuss the importance of providing accurate information about LGBTI topics as part of a comprehensive sex education curriculum.

What do I do if parents are concerned that discussion of these issues might confuse the sexual identity of their children?

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How might I respond as a teacher if a student confides in me in relation to their sexual orientation?

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What do I say to staff who fear losing their jobs or not being appointed to positions of responsibility in EREA schools because they are same-sex attracted?

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