

Preventing domestic and family violence in families with LGBTIQ+ people:

What can secondary schools do?



Responsibility for preventing family violence sits with everyone. This tip sheet outlines some key actions that secondary schools can take to help prevent violence in families with LGBTIQ+ people. Together we can address the underlying reasons that violence exists in the community including negative attitudes and beliefs.

1. Promote inclusion, respect and equality

Let the school community and visitors know that you are an LGBTIQ+ friendly school. Display LGBTIQ+ posters, fly the relevant flags and more!

Ensure inclusivity of the language used at school (e.g. avoid splitting activities by gender, teach 'family' in an inclusive way including lesbian mums, gay dads, and gender diverse parents and use LGBTIQ+ people as examples in your teaching).

Encourage the leadership and involvement of girls and gender diverse young people in all school activities, and listen to their ideas and views.

Foster kind and supportive male peer relations which do not support aggression or discrimination.

2. Challenge homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, endosexism

Respond to staff and young people who use discriminatory language, modelling positive ways to approach this, and have classroom discussions about inclusion.

Use the 'All of Us' guide, to support teachers to discuss gender diversity, sexual diversity and intersex topics in the classroom.

Learn and teach the letters of the acronym **LGBTIQ+** and what endosex and cisgender mean.

Challenge incorrect assumptions that all young people are either male or female and that everyone's body looks clearly **male or female**.

3. Celebrate and educate about LGBTIQ+ people

Invite LGBTIQ+ guest speakers and workshops. Look at all letters in the acronym.

Embed LGBTIQ+ **histories, people** and events across the curriculum.

Read **books** and **show media** that is inclusive of LGBTIQ+ people.

Acknowledge and celebrate body diversity.

4. Normalise respectful relationships

Actively demonstrate respectful interactions between yourself, students and other school staff.

Teach students about **respectful relationships** and the skills to maintain them.

5. Educate about and embrace all gender expressions, and support gender diverse children and young people to be themselves

Use this **guide** for schools to be inclusive of trans and gender diverse students.

Ensure **forms and paperwork** are inclusive of students and parents/carers who are intersex, sexuality and/or gender diverse (e.g. offer "gender non-binary" and "other" as options).

Allow uniform options which match student's gender identity.

Encourage students to share their **pronouns** in order to normalise gender diverse young people. If you're unsure, simply ask them what gender pronouns they use.

Talk with young people about the language they use to understand themselves and others, their bodies, sex, gender, sexuality and relationship (in line with HPE in the Australian Curriculum).

6. Create a school culture which says no to violence

Build support and funding for a **whole-of-school approach** to respectful relationships education, research shows this is most successful. Ensure consent and respectful relationships programs are inclusive of LGBTIQ+ people (all letters in the acronym).

Download and use the **Sort your safety** resource for high schoolers.

Establish clear referral pathways for sexual, domestic and family violence and ensure staff are adequately trained to **respond to disclosures**. Promoting respectful relationships may lead to disclosures of family violence.



Creating change can lead to **negative reactions**. Expect and plan for it but don't be discouraged!



For more information or a referrals list visit [StrongSafeFabulous.online](https://www.strongsafe fabulous.com.au)