

Starting a LGBTIQA+ Student Collective at Your School

1

Identify support staff at your school

- * Consider teachers, school guidance officers, welfare coordinators, school nurses or teacher aides.
- * Make sure any staff-student ratio requirements are met.

2

Be sure to follow all the relevant school policies and procedures

- * Check with your Principal and relevant staff for any existing policies, procedures or guidelines that may be relevant.
- * Always include processes that ensure the safety and confidentiality of all students who will attend.

3

Consider all logistics

- * Identify an appropriate space (if needed) and obtain any initial resources you may need.
- * Make sure the space will be accessible and inclusive for all students.

4

Develop structural guidelines for your collective

- * Outline the aims and purposes of the collective.
- * Document the role that staff and students will play.
- * Document any requirements for student participation.
- * Revise all documentation as your collective progresses and grows.

5

Actively engage student participation

- * Finalise your initial planning.
- * Obtain Principal approval.
- * Set the first meeting date.
- * Advertise the time, date and location to students.
- * Include some brief information about the collective.
- * Have a great time!

What is a school-based LGBTIQA+ Student Collective?

A school-based LGBTIQA+ Student Collective is like other non-curriculum student groups (for example, an environmental club) but the aim of a LGBTIQA+ student collective is to create safe spaces for all LGBTIQA+ students.

Who can join a LGBTIQA+ Student Collective?

A LGBTIQA+ Student Collective is open to all students, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and/or queer students. Allies (students who support LGBTIQA+ equality) are also very welcome to join.

Why have a LGBTIQA+ student collective?

The wellbeing of students who identify as LGBTIQA+ can be put at risk and can lead to disengagement with school due to discrimination, verbal and physical abuse, and/or non-inclusive school environments. Student collectives are a great way to make everyone feel welcome and improve wellbeing.

What are the benefits of LGBTIQA+ student collectives?

School-based LGBTIQA+ student collectives can help reduce the risks faced by LGBTIQA+ students by:

- Creating safer school environments
- Promoting a school culture of respect and inclusion
- Establishing a safe space to find friends and allies
- Enabling students to identify supportive staff
- Increasing student school engagement and belonging
- Positively impacting on student academic achievement

What kinds of activities can a LGBTIQA+ Student Collective Organise?

There are many different activities LGBTIQA+ student collectives can organise and participate in. For example

- International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT),
- Wear It Purple Day
- LGBTIQA+ history month.

How Can We Make Our LGBTIQA+ Student Collective Sustainable?

- Schedule regular meetings
- Make sure roles and responsibilities are shared and don't leave it all to the year 12's!
- Organise and celebrate ongoing activities, events and resources
- Identify and engage upcoming students from years 10/11 who can run the group when year 12's become busy in their final year of school.
- Always provide opportunities for student input and feedback and use them!

How can we find out more about starting a LGBTIQA+ student collective at school?

- Visit www.strongsafefabulous.online and watch our free training and webinar on starting student collectives.

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FAQs

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Safe
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