Glossary of terms

bisexual A person emotionally, romantically and sexually attracted to both men and women, though not necessarily simultaneously; a bisexual person may not be equally attracted to both sexes, and the degree of attraction may vary as sexual identity develops over time

coming out The process in which a person first acknowledges, accepts and embraces his or her sexual orientation or gender identity and begins to share that with others

gay A word describing a man or a woman who is emotionally, romantically and sexually attracted to members of the same sex

gender binary The strict classification of sex and gender into male/masculine and female/feminine

gender identity The gender role that a person identifies with, which may or may not align with his or her physical sex, or the gender that society has prescribed them with

genderqueer A word used to describe those with a nonstandard gender identity, or those who do not conform to traditional gender norms

heteronormativity The notion that heterosexuality is the "normal" sexuality, and the idea that there is a standard alignment of biological sex, sexuality, gender identity, and gender roles

heterosexism Attitudes in favour of heterosexual lifestyles and relationships, discriminatory to those outside of heterosexuality

homophobia The fear and hatred of or discomfort with people who love and are sexually attracted to members of the same sex

internalised homophobia Self-identification of societal stereotypes by an LGBT person, causing them to dislike and resent their sexual orientation or gender identity

intersex refers to a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male

lesbian A woman who is emotionally, romantically and sexually attracted to other women

LGBT Stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, variations include GLBT and LGBTQI (which includes Queer and Intersex)

queer is often considered a controversial word as up until recently it was used as a pejorative term. It has since been reclaimed by the LGBT community and is considered in academic circles as a progressive and important umbrella term that collectively embraces not only the LGBT community but anyone who identifies as anything outside of the heteronormative gender binary. In a sense, queer is a rejection of the heteronormative binds that are traditionally placed around us by society.

sexual orientation A pattern of emotional, romantic and sexual attraction to another person; may be a same-sex orientation, opposite-sex orientation, bisexual orientation or asexuality

transgender An umbrella term for those that identify outside of the confines of the typical view of gender roles, this includes people who are transsexual, cross-dressers or identify as genderqueer

transphobia the fear and hatred of, or discomfort with, people whose gender identity or gender expression do not conform to cultural gender expectations

transsexual A medical term describing people whose gender and sex do not line up, and who sometimes seek medical treatment to bring their body and gender identity into alignment

Queering the school:

Challenging homophobia and interrogating heteronormativity in schools

A brief guide to some resources at the IOE and elsewhere

Youth club. c1960. From the Photographic Archive of the Architects & Buildings Branch (ref ABB/A/73/3)
Section 28, May 1988, was a piece of legislation specifically directed at schools and teachers to eliminate the discussion of homosexuality. It stated that a local authority "shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality" or "promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship" 1.

Previous to this, many councils had implemented wide ranging anti-discrimination policies, which often filtered down to educational resources. Previous to this it is difficult to know for certain how much the subject of homosexuality was discussed in schools.

No convictions were made under Section 28, but the legislation served only to increase fear and ignorance of the gay community, particularly in a time where AIDS was at the forefront of public conscience.

The Labour government repealed section 28 in 2003. But the lasting effects of Section 28 can still be felt in schools, as Jeffrey Weeks asserts; ‘Law does not create public opinion but it does shape and reinforce it’ 2. Following the repeal, there is no excuse to ignore our LGBT children, parents and teachers, and the pressure is now on, not only to acknowledge them, but to actively establish ways of supporting them and educating others.

The resources listed here aim to aid anyone who wishes to explore ways of teaching about, and facilitating discussion on, relationships, family, and identity, with young people, in an informed, non-discriminatory manner.

Gendered Intelligence deliver facilitated workshops to all young people within schools, colleges, youth groups and other settings in order to generate discussion and debate around gender and the ways in which it presents challenges in our everyday lives http://www.genderedintelligence.co.uk/index.php

School’s Out also have a range of resources available on their website http://www.schools-out.org.uk/

Looking for historical resources?

Compiled by the Archives Hub in 2006, this list http://archiveshub.ac.uk/features/feb06.shtml pinpoints some significant archives relating to LGBT people, and issues

Out There http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/out-there.htm is The National Archives portal for LGBT archives across the country. The archives listed are mainly based in local authority archives

The Lesbian and Gay Newsmedia Archive http://www.lagna.org.uk/ is based at the Bishopsgate Institute and would be a good place to start with regards to using historical resources

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This guide is available in a large print version. Please request from the Archive team arch.enquiries@ioe.ac.uk
In the IOE Archive

The Records of the Institute of Education
http://www.ioe.ac.uk/services/386.html
Includes student newsletters dealing with issues facing LGBT teachers
Records of the Forest School Camps http://www.ioe.ac.uk/services/989.html
Includes discussion among staff members about their sexuality, and their
feelings about their place within in the organisation
The Records of the Schools Council for Curriculum and Examinations
collection http://www.ioe.ac.uk/services/1008.html includes papers related
to the Campaign for homosexual equality, and other related correspondence

Online

There are numerous organisations with material available online and to
download, it would be impossible to list them all here, however, here are a
few links to get you started:

LGBT History Month (http://lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/) have a wealth of
resources listed on their website under “Schools”. Their “History” section
also has a number of timelines. The account of LGBT history month
celebrated at Stoke Newington School, instigated by one teacher may be of
particular interest
http://www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk/schools/SNschool.htm

Stonewall’s Education for All campaign, launched in January 2005, helps
tackle homophobia and homophobic bullying in schools and works with a
wide coalition of groups
http://www.stonewall.org.uk/at_school/education_for_all/default.asp
They have a list of resources here

Available in the IOE library

Teaching resources

Beadle-Blair, R. (2010). Fit : screen and stage plays : with teachers’ notes for
England, Wales and Scotland. London: Oberon
Forrest, S., Biddle, G., Clift, S. and AIDS Education and Research Trust.
Education and Research Trust
resources about the media, sex and relationships for KS3. London: English
and Media Centre
Homophobic bullying : safe to learn : embedding anti-bullying work in
schools. [London]: Department for Children Schools and Families Great
sexual orientation and challenging homophobia across the key stage 4
curriculum. London: Terrence Higgins Trust
Learning and Teaching Scotland. (2009). Toolkit for teachers dealing with
homophobia and homophobic bullying in Scottish schools. [Online]. Available at:
http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/LGBT%20low%20res%207'01'09_tcm4-
512286.pdf
teaching resource on homophobic bullying. Bolton: d2 digital by design
Pobal. (2006). More than a phase : a resource guide for the inclusion of
young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender learners. Dublin: Pobal
Available at: http://www.scribd.com/doc/60206563/Summer-2011-
Runnymede-Bulletin-LGBT
practice guide to prevent homophobic bullying in secondary schools. London:
Citizenship 21
Non-fiction


If you wish to explore the subject further through published material it’s worth knowing that the IOE is walking distance of Gay’s The Word bookshop. ([http://freespace.virgin.net/gays.theword/](http://freespace.virgin.net/gays.theword/)). Established in 1979, Gay’s The Word is the UK’s pioneering first (and is today the last surviving) lesbian and gay bookshop, providing a safe space and a vibrant community base for all things queer in the literary world.
A family is defined as ‘a social group in society typically consisting of one or two parents and their children’. The traditional model of what is considered to be a family; a husband, a wife and their children, is outdated and is no longer the only model in today’s society. It is important, in trying to allow school children to accept alternative families (single parents, same-sex parents etc.) to present them with positive examples of these. There is now a growing number of books aimed at a range of ages that deal with alternative families, exposure to these will help school children to appreciate the diversity of family life in our country today and will help normalise relationships and family structures that are all too often seen as uncomfortable or taboo subjects.

**Fiction/children’s books**


Media

Beadle-Blair, R. (2010). *Fit* (pp. 1 DVD (110 min.). [London]: Peccadillo Pictures

Off-air recording. (2006). *Coming out to class* (1 DVD-R (48 min.). [London]: Channel Four


