



## Homophobic abuse

We live in a society that allows people the freedom to make their own decisions about how they choose to live. This is a free country and everyone within it has the right to reach their own decisions. Adults live in many different arrangements:

- Some grown ups live alone
- Some are married and live as man and wife
- Sometimes a man and a woman live together in a relationship, as a couple, and choose not to marry
- Sometimes two men live together in a relationship, as a couple. These men may, or may not, be married
- Sometimes two women live together in a relationship, as a couple. These women may, or may not, be married.

Whatever decisions people take they should be respected by others. This is what happens in a civilised, tolerant society. Everyone is entitled to their own views about these different arrangements, but they should always accept and respect the choices made by others.

The word 'gay' is used in our society to describe two men, or two women, who are together, in a relationship, as a couple. It is not a bad word and it is not a word of abuse. It is a word that describes two people of the same gender who are a couple. Sometimes children use the word, wrongly, in an unkind and abusive way. This is a form of name calling which is called homophobic bullying. It causes offence and upset to others.

All offensive name calling is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in our polite, friendly, school. It will always be challenged and firm action will be taken against anyone behaving in this unacceptable way. As we grow up we are learning the importance of accepting that people are different and that they have the right to be different.

### Status

Last reviewed: February 2016, June 2017

Next Review: June 2019

Author: Mark Hartley