

**GET
OVER
IT!**

**BE
GAY.**

USING 'GAY' THE RIGHT WAY



'GAY'. GET OVER IT!

GAY.

IT'S AMAZING HOW SUCH A SMALL WORD CAN CAUSE SO MUCH TROUBLE.

ALL 'GAY' MEANS IS THAT YOU'RE INTO PEOPLE OF THE SAME SEX. YOU KNEW THAT.

BOYS WHO FANCY BOYS.

GIRLS WHO FANCY GIRLS.

THAT'S ALL IT MEANS. NO BIG DEAL.

**AND WHILE MOST OF US ARE GROWN UP
ENOUGH TO BE COOL ABOUT IT,
SOME PEOPLE STILL USE THE WORD 'GAY'
TO MEAN 'RUBBISH'. MAYBE THEY DON'T
MEAN TO SOUND HOMOPHOBIC.**

BUT THEY DO.

THIS BOOKLET SHOULD HELP YOU TO HELP THEM GET OVER IT.



**WHERE DID 'THAT'S SO GAY'
COME FROM?**

YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE...

THINGS CATCH ON...

THEY 'GO VIRAL'...

AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED HERE.

YEARS AGO...

(THAT'S HOW TIRED THIS STUFF IS!)

WHEN PEOPLE WEREN'T SO ACCEPTING, THEY REALLY DID THINK IT WAS RUBBISH TO BE GAY AND SO THEY SIMPLY SWAPPED

'THAT'S SO

RUBBISH!

WITH

GAY!

'THAT'S SO

IN THE 21ST CENTURY MOST PEOPLE KNOW THAT GAY PEOPLE ARE JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE AND CERTAINLY DON'T THINK THAT BEING GAY IS RUBBISH. THE PROBLEM IS THAT, EVEN THOUGH OUR ATTITUDES HAVE CHANGED, THE LANGUAGE SOME PEOPLE USE HASN'T.

SO APART FROM BEING INSULTING, IT'S ALL A BIT

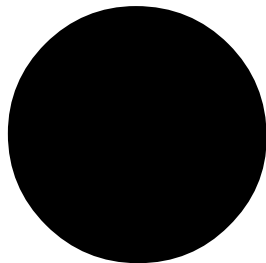
LAST

CENTURY.

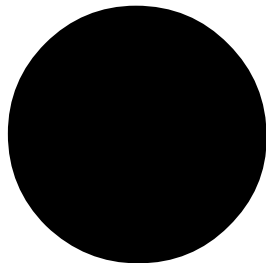


IS IT A LOAD OF FUSS ABOUT NOTHING?

THE TRUTH IS



WORDS ARE IMPORTANT.



AND THAT MEANS THAT EVERY TIME A GAY PERSON HEARS SOMEONE SAY,

'OH, THAT'S SO GAY'

THEY'RE BEING RUBBISHED. HEARING IT CONSTANTLY USED

TO MEAN RUBBISH

STARTS TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK THE FACT THAT THEY'RE GAY IS

A BAD THING

OR SOMETHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.

IT MIGHT NOT SEEM LIKE MUCH,

BUT

**HEARING IT EVERY DAY FROM FRIENDS,
CLASSMATES AND EVEN CELEBRITIES TAKES
ITS TOLL, ESPECIALLY ON YOUNG PEOPLE
WHO ARE JUST STARTING TO REALISE THAT
THEY MIGHT BE GAY OR BISEXUAL.**

**SOMEONE CASUALLY, THOUGHTLESSLY
SAYING 'THAT'S SO GAY' PROBABLY DOESN'T
WANT TO HURT SOMEONE'S FEELINGS
LIKE THAT. BUT THAT'S
WHAT
HAPPENS.**



LET'S DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

**WE KNOW THAT MOST PEOPLE WHO
COME OUT WITH STUFF LIKE 'THAT'S SO GAY'
DON'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.**

**SO
HOW**

DO WE LET THEM KNOW THEY SHOULDN'T DO IT?

WE CAN START BY EXPLAINING IT TO THEM.

AND THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.

**IF WE ALL CHALLENGE ANYONE WHO COMES
OUT WITH HOMOPHOBIC LANGUAGE
IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO**

GET IT OUT

OF OUR CLASSROOMS.



SO, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?

**FIRST OF ALL
DON'T DO
ANYTHING
THAT MAKES
YOU FEEL
UNCOMFORTABLE**

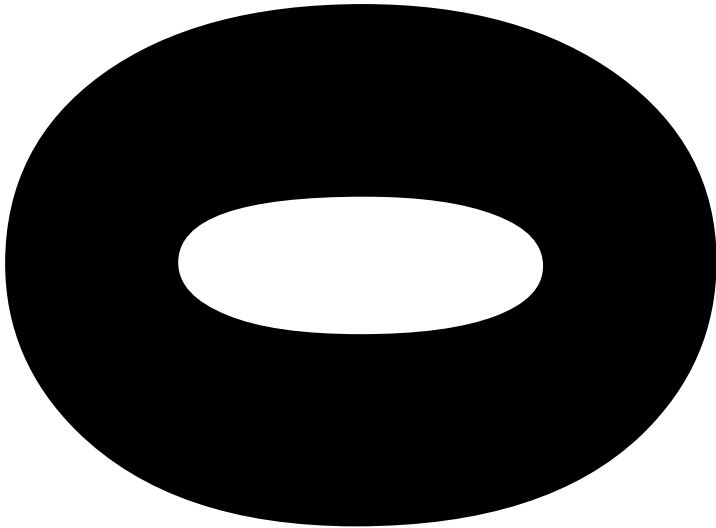
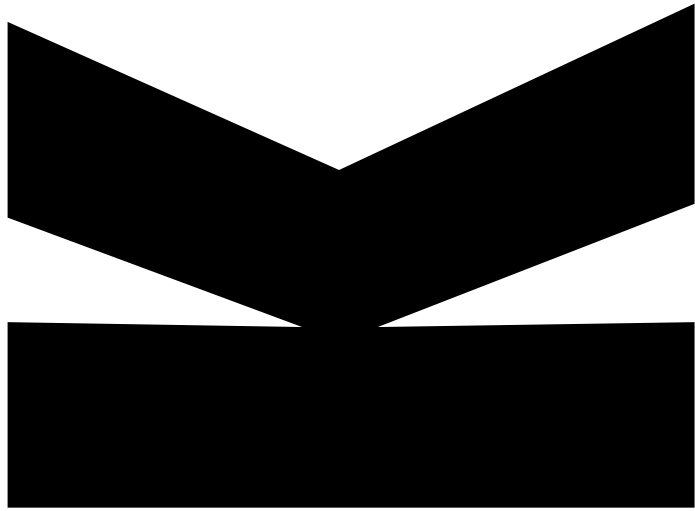
**BUT IF YOU DO WANT TO CHALLENGE
HOMOPHOBIC LANGUAGE, DON'T FEEL YOU
HAVE TO MAKE A BIG DEAL ABOUT IT.
SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS**



YOU DO REALISE THAT'S HOMOPHOBIC, DON'T YOU?



SHOULD DO THE TRICK.

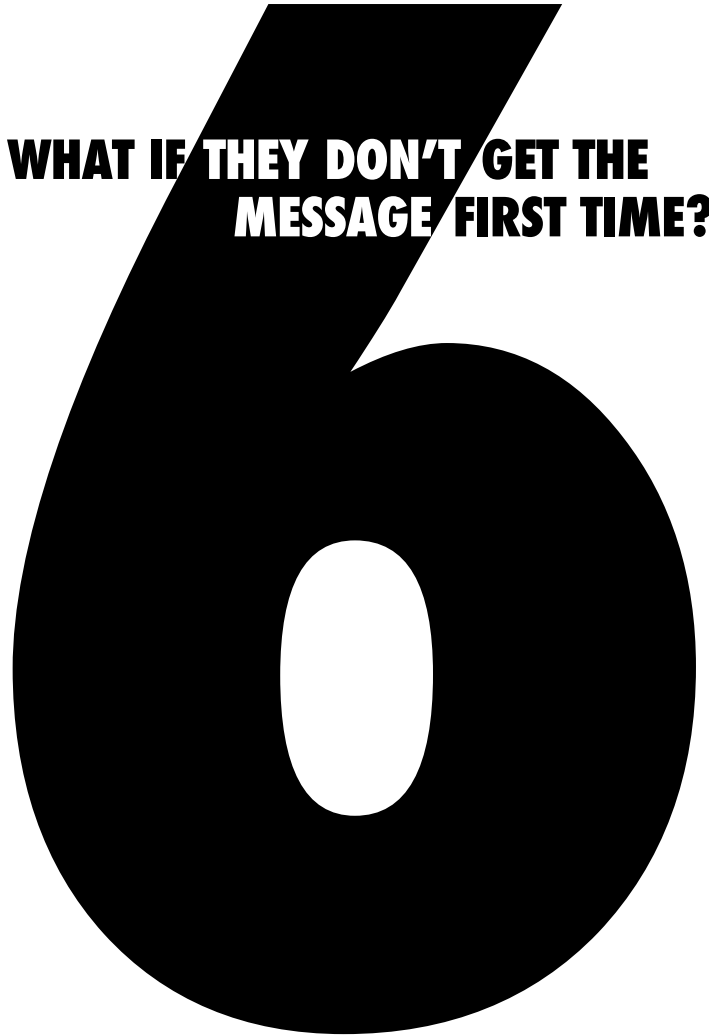


**SO SOMEONE MIGHT
TURN AROUND AND SAY
THEY DIDN'T MEAN IT
LIKE THAT OR TELL YOU
NOT TO BE SO SERIOUS.
BUT THIS GIVES YOU THE
PERFECT OPPORTUNITY
TO EXPLAIN THAT,
WHETHER THEY MEANT TO
BE HOMOPHOBIC OR
NOT, IT MAKES GAY
PEOPLE FEEL LIKE THEY'RE
RUBBISH. OF COURSE,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
USE THESE EXACT
WORDS, BUT THAT'S
THE MESSAGE YOU WANT
TO GET ACROSS.**

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE A FIGHT ABOUT IT

A GENTLE REMINDER AND EXPLANATION SHOULD DO IT. THESE DAYS THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GO AROUND SOUNDING LIKE A HOMOPHOBE. IF THEY DO WANT TO GO AROUND SOUNDING LIKE A HOMOPHOBE, WELL, THAT'S A WHOLE OTHER PROBLEM.

**WHAT IF THEY DON'T GET THE
MESSAGE FIRST TIME?**



**ONCE YOU'VE CHALLENGED
THE FIRST TIME, IT'S MUCH**

**HOMOPHOBIC LANGUAGE
EASIER TO DO IT IN FUTURE.**

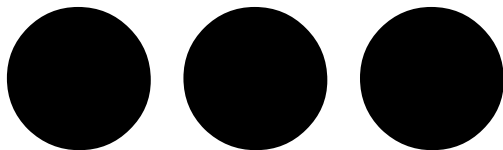
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE BORING

AND ONCE YOU'VE EXPLAINED IT

THEY EITHER GET IT OR THEY DON'T.

**SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS
ROLLING YOUR EYES**

**WILL HELP TO REMIND THEM THAT YOU
DON'T FIND IT FUNNY**



OR INTERESTING

**AND REMEMBERING THAT THE EXPRESSION
STARTED YEARS AGO, YOU CAN REMIND
PEOPLE THAT IT'S THE OLDEST, TIREDEST**

*** YAWNS *
THING.**

LIKE,

**WHAT YEAR
IS THIS
ANYWAY**

?

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO IN SCHOOL?

WE KNOW THAT IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO CHALLENGE PEOPLE WHEN THEY USE 'GAY' THE WRONG WAY, ESPECIALLY WHEN LOADS OF PEOPLE ARE DOING IT. THAT'S WHY WE'VE PRODUCED A SERIES OF POSTERS THAT YOU CAN PUT UP AROUND SCHOOL TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS AND HELP PEOPLE 'GET OVER IT'.

'THAT'S SO GAY.'
LET'S BE HONEST, IT'S PROBABLY NOT.

Gay. Let's get over it.

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GAY.
LET'S GET THE
MEANING STRAIGHT.

Gay. Let's get over it.

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'YOUR SO GAY.'

CAN YOU SPOT TWO COMMON MISTAKES?

Gay. Let's get over it.

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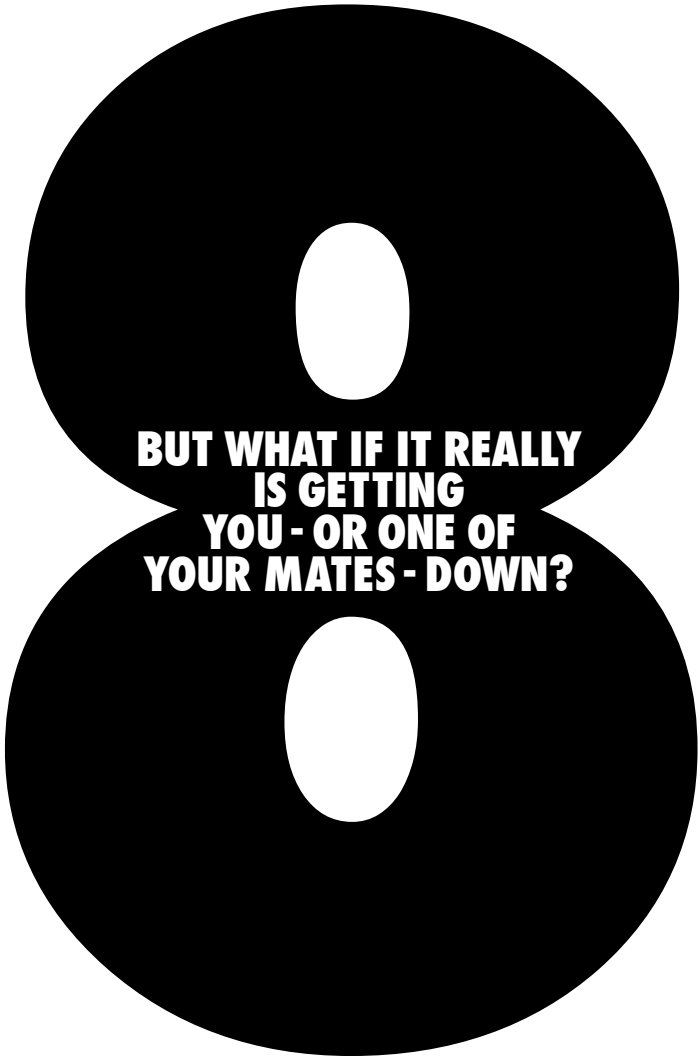


PUTTING THEM UP WILL QUICKLY GET YOUR MATES TALKING AND HOPEFULLY GET THEM TO THINK ABOUT THEIR WORDS TOO.

PLEASE

MAKE SURE YOU ASK A TEACHER FIRST.

THE LAST THING WE WANT IS YOU GETTING INTO TROUBLE FOR TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING!

A large, bold, black number 8 is centered on the right side of the image. The number is composed of two thick, rounded strokes. In the center of the number, there is a white, vertically-oriented oval shape. Inside this white oval, the text "BUT WHAT IF IT REALLY IS GETTING YOU - OR ONE OF YOUR MATES - DOWN?" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in four lines, centered within the oval.

**BUT WHAT IF IT REALLY
IS GETTING
YOU - OR ONE OF
YOUR MATES - DOWN?**

AS MUCH AS WE'D LIKE YOU TO HELP US STOP PEOPLE USING

'GAY'

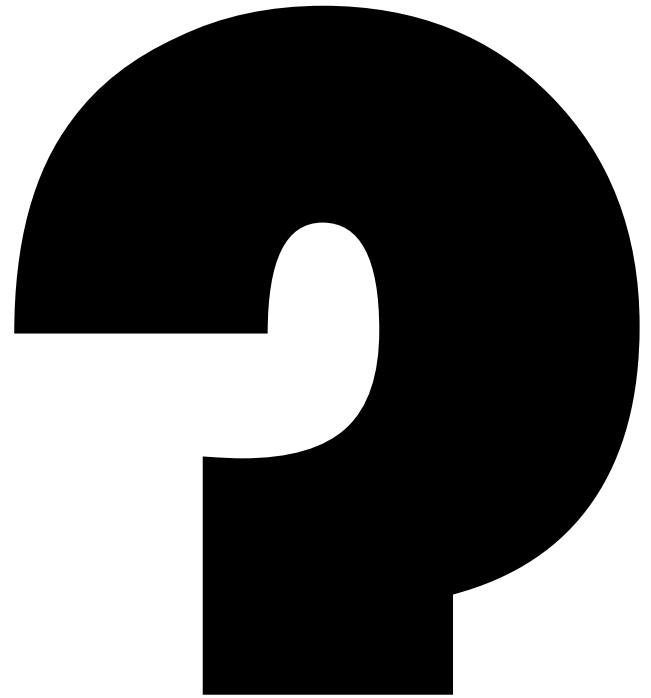
THE WRONG WAY

ULTIMATELY IT'S YOUR SCHOOL'S JOB TO DO IT. IF YOU KEEP ON HEARING HOMOPHOBIC LANGUAGE OR IT'S GETTING YOU OR A FRIEND DOWN, THEN LET A TEACHER KNOW. THEY'VE GOT A RESPONSIBILITY TO TACKLE IT.

**WE KNOW THAT SOMETIMES, WHEN
HOMOPHOBIC LANGUAGE ISN'T CHALLENGED,
IT CAN TURN INTO MORE SERIOUS
BULLYING, WHICH IS WHY SCHOOLS AND
TEACHERS NEED TO**

STEP IN.

**STONEWALL'S SCHOOL
CHAMPIONS
PROGRAMME GIVES
TEACHERS THE
TRAINING AND
SUPPORT THAT THEY
NEED TO BE ABLE TO
TACKLE HOMOPHOBIC
BULLYING AND
LANGUAGE, SO IF
YOUR SCHOOL'S NOT
A MEMBER
ALREADY, WHY NOT
SUGGEST THEY...**



A large, bold, black number '9' is centered on the right side of the image. Inside the circular top part of the '9', the text 'AND IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP...' is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in two lines: 'AND IF YOU REALLY WANT TO' on the top line and 'HELP...' on the bottom line, positioned to the right of the central hole of the '9'.

**AND IF YOU REALLY WANT TO
HELP...**

**IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP YOU CAN
BECOME A STONEWALL YOUTH VOLUNTEER.
YOU GET TO MEET PEOPLE, DO GOOD
WORK AND HAVE SOMETHING GREAT ON
YOUR CV. WE'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE HELP YOU
NEED TO START YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN
TO TACKLE HOMOPHOBIC BULLYING IN A FUN
AND CREATIVE WAY.**

SO, THERE YOU HAVE IT.

WE HOPE YOU AGREE THAT IT'S TIME TO GET OVER 'THAT'S SO GAY' ONCE AND FOR ALL.

**WE ALSO HOPE YOU'LL HELP US DO IT:
FROM PULLING YOUR MATES UP
WHEN THEY SAY IT, THROUGH
PUTTING UP POSTERS
IN YOUR SCHOOL, TO
WORKING WITH STONEWALL,
TO TAKING OVER THE WORLD.**

(OK, SO THAT LAST BIT MIGHT TAKE A BIT LONGER).

NOW

**HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE MAKING YOUR
SCHOOL A BETTER PLACE, NOT JUST FOR GAY
PEOPLE BUT FOR EVERYONE AND
CHANGING SOCIETY AT THE SAME TIME?**

NICE

RIGHT?

T

**LET'S
GET
OVER
IT!**



FOR FURTHER ADVICE AND INFORMATION YOU CAN VISIT THE YOUNG STONEWALL WEBSITE WWW.YOUNGSTONEWALL.ORG.UK



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