LGBT+ History Month Newsletter

16th February 2025
18 Shevat 5785

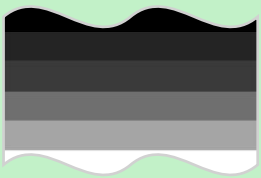
Learning - Charity - Community

LGBT+ History Month at King Solomon High School

LGBT+ terms and definitions

What does LGBT+ mean?

LESBIAN (L)
Women who are attracted to women. Some non-binary people may identify with this term.



HETEROSEXUAL
Men who are attracted to women, and women who are attracted to men.

GAY (G)
People who are attracted to the same gender.

NON-BINARY
People whose gender identity isn't either male or female.

BISEXUAL (B)
People who are attracted to more than one gender.

GENDER FLUID
People whose gender identity is not fixed but changes depending on the context and how they are feeling.

TRANSGENDER (T)
People whose gender identity is not the same as the sex they were assigned at birth.

What do we hope to achieve this month?

- To show support for the LGBT+ community by marking LGBT+ History Month.
- To learn about the positive contributions that LGBT+ people make to our society.
- To learn about the importance of LGBT+ History Month.
- To educate ourselves on LGBT+ issues so we can show respect and understanding, creating a welcoming and safe community for LGBT+ people.

What is LGBT+ History Month?

- LGBT+ History Month started in 1994 in the USA and was then adopted by the UK in 2004.
- Sue Saunders and Paul Patrick (pictured on the right) are the founders of the UK's LGBT+ History Month.
- Both the founders of the USA and UK LGBT+ month were school teachers who were concerned about homophobic bullying in schools.

What are the aims of LGBT+ History Month?

- Increasing the visibility of LGBT+ people, their history, lives and their experiences.
- Raising awareness and advancing education on matters affecting the LGBT+ community.
- Working to make education and other institutions safe spaces for all LGBT+ communities.
- Promoting the welfare of LGBT+ people.
- Challenge misconceptions and stereotypes about LGBT+ people.

LGBT+ rights in the UK

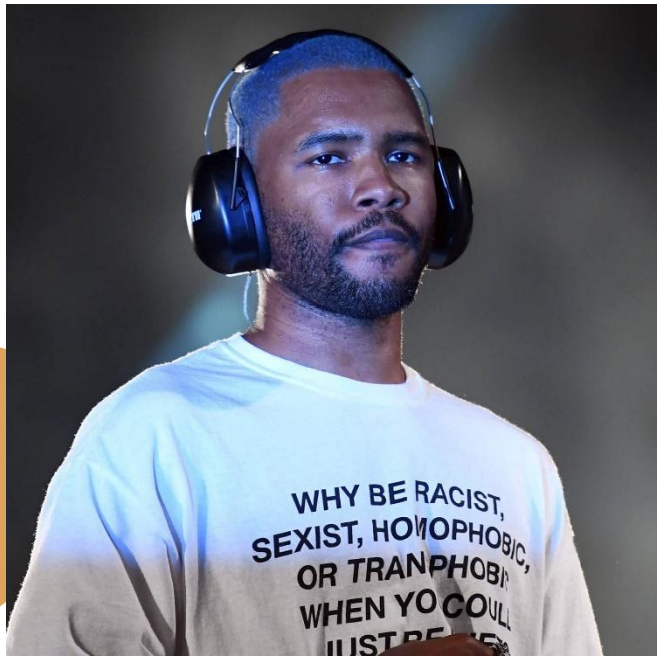
- The 2010 UK Equality Act protects the rights of LGBT+ people at work, in school and in places such as hotels and in public spaces.
- British Values: one of which is mutual respect.
- LGBT+ people have the same rights to have children as anyone else. This means that LGBT+ couples can foster, adopt and access fertility treatments.
- There has been a 40% increase in the number of LGBT families since 2015.
- Ofsted requires that all schools take actions to eradicate homophobic and transphobic bullying and promote equality.

Celebrating the lives of LGBT+ people and their contributions

Jill Scott

- Jill Scott MBE is an English former professional footballer. During her career she represented Sunderland, Everton, Manchester City and England.
- She was appointed an MBE in the 2020 New Year Honours for services to women's football.
- In June 2022, she was included in the England squad which won the UEFA Women's Euro 2022. She made over 150 appearances for the England team and retired as England's second-most capped international footballer (men and women).
- In the same year, she also made history by becoming the first LGBT+ woman to win I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here.
- Since retiring from football, she has taken up many roles within the broadcasting industry. She also works at Boxx2Boxx coffee, a coffee shop in Manchester which she co-owns with her fiancé Shelly Unitt.

Frank Ocean



- Frank Ocean is a singer, rapper, songwriter, record producer and photographer.
- He released his first studio album, 'Channel Orange', in 2012. The album debuted at number two on the Billboard 200 chart and also earned him six Grammy nominations.
- Later in 2012, He published an open letter on his Tumblr blog recounting unrequited feelings he had for another young man when he was 19 years old, thus publicly coming out as a bisexual man. Many of his early lyrics were later revealed to be a dedication to his first love.

Elliot Page

- Elliot Page (formerly Ellen Page) is a Canadian actor, producer and activist.
- He got his start in Canadian television before generating buzz for his powerful performance in the 2005 indie thriller 'Hard Candy'. From there, he went on to star in 'X-Men: The Last Stand', and his highly acclaimed role as the teenage star of 'Juno'.
- Page publicly came out as gay during a conference in Las Vegas in February 2014. The conference, named Time to THRIVE, was focused on addressing issues within the LGBT community.
- In January 2018, Page announced his marriage to girlfriend Emma Portner, a dance instructor and choreographer. They divorced in 2021.
- On December 1, 2020, Page came out as transgender, revealing his name change from Ellen to Elliot. Page became the first openly transgender man to appear on the cover of 'Time' magazine in March 2021.

Billie Eilish

- Billie Eilish is a Grammy-winning pop and alternative singer. She was barely a teenager when her song "Ocean Eyes" became a viral hit.
- In total, she has released three studio albums and has won nine Grammy Awards and two Oscars for her music to date.
- In November 2023, she came out as a member of the LGBT+ community.

National LGBT+ Statistics

- Even though there are so many positive stories to tell about LGBT+ inclusion, there is still a lot of homophobia, transphobia and biphobia around the world.

- In a survey by the LGBT+ charity Stonewall, they found that too many young LGBT+ people were having a very experience at school through being bullied.

- Below are some important statistics from their research. These statistics make for very sad reading, and it is important that these things do not happen at King Solomon High School.

45% of LGBT+ students are bullied at school

50% of bullied LGBT students say this negatively impacts on their future educational plans

61% of LGBT+ students have self harmed because of bullying and this rises to 84% for bullied transgender students

40% of bullied LGBT+ students regularly miss school

Challenging misconceptions about LGBT+ people

- A misconception is something that is incorrectly believed to be true based on misunderstanding and or lack of education.
- Misconceptions about LGBT+ people lead to discrimination.
- Each of the following statements are misconceptions –

Sexual orientation and gender identity are the same thing.

Sexual orientation refers to who we are romantically attracted to.

Gender identity is a way to describe how someone feels about their gender.

For example, some people may identify as a boy or a girl, while others may find neither of these terms feel right for them and identify as neither or somewhere in the middle.

Being LGBT is a choice

In the same way that heterosexual people would not say that their sexual orientation is natural and part of who they are, the same applies for lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

A boy who appears feminine or a girl who appears masculine must be gay

You cannot assume anyone's sexual orientation by the way they look. Just because someone doesn't conform to gender stereotypes, does not mean they are gay or lesbian.

Gay and bisexual people, like heterosexual people, do not have a specific look.

What are we doing at KS to support LGBT+ equality?

- Encouraging all students to be respectful of everyone.
- Making sure our school is a safe place.
- Implementing our school ethos: Learning, Charity, COMMUNITY.
- Following our behaviour policy and expectations: there is zero tolerance of any forms of discrimination.
- Marking LGBT+ month with LGBT+ assemblies.
- Staff wearing rainbow lanyards.
- Inviting KeshetUK into school to deliver LGBT awareness workshops to all year groups.
- Teaching a PSHE curriculum that is inclusive.

What do we need all students to do?

- Be kind, offer support and show empathy.
- Never use any form of discriminatory language, "I didn't know", will not be accepted as an excuse.
- Understand that discrimination is not only against our school policy, it is also illegal.
- Be an ally. You don't have to be LGBT+ to support those who are.
- Challenge misconceptions and discrimination.
- Never out someone.
- Just because you think someone is LGBT+, you do not have the right to ask personal questions.
- Respect peoples' chosen name and pronoun.