



**Proud to create  
change in schools**

**Safe  
Schools  
Coalition  
AUS**

# Guide to Kick Starting Your Safe School

Kick start your safe school by taking some simple and proactive steps to ensure that your classroom and school are inclusive and supportive spaces for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students.

**Here are eight practical ideas** for schools to take a stand against homophobia and transphobia, and actively support gender diversity and sexual diversity.

**1**

## Get informed

*Safe Schools Do Better* is a fantastic resource that provides straight forward information about homophobia, transphobia, gender diversity and sexual diversity. It is a really useful tool for advocating for positive change in your school.

Safe Schools Coalition Australia offers this booklet and a range of other resources to help both school staff and students support and include same sex attracted, intersex, and gender diverse members of the school community. Check out our website or get in touch with Safe Schools Coalition in your state or territory to order your copies and distribute them among staff and students now!

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## Raise awareness

Be visible and get the message out there. Make your classroom and school inclusive by displaying materials that are positive and inclusive of same sex attracted and gender diverse young people.

If your school is already a member of Safe Schools Coalition Australia, display your membership certificate in a prominent place so that all students, staff and visitors to the school can see it. Think about framing it.

Display our Safe Schools Coalition Australia posters in corridors and classrooms and make sure the *OMG I'm Queer* and *OMG My Friend's Queer* booklets are readily available through the welfare department and in other visible spaces such as the front office, the library and common rooms. Order your copies now!

**3**

## Speak up

Encourage all school staff to make a commitment to challenging all homophobic and transphobic language or behaviour every time they hear or see it.

By challenging language such as 'that's so gay' and 'what a homo/lezzo' or 'are you a tranny?' teachers can make immediate impacts on homophobic and transphobic school culture. Bring it up at a staff meeting and see if you can get everyone to commit to making a difference, from office staff to teachers to the principal.

There is a video on the Safe Schools Coalition Australia website giving advice to school staff on challenging 'That's so gay'.

For resources, training and more information  
[safeschoolscoalition.org.au](https://safeschoolscoalition.org.au)

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## Plan to teach diversity

Plan to teach about same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse people, histories and events. There are plenty of books by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex authors and a number of texts with gender diverse or sexually diverse characters.

Whatever the subject, try to work out ways to integrate gender diversity and sexual diversity across your curriculum. Bring resources and ideas to the table at your curriculum planning meetings and start the discussion. If you're stuck for ideas, get in touch and we can provide book lists and references to other appropriate teaching and learning materials, including videos.

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## Review your policies and procedures

Find out whether your anti-bullying or diversity policies and procedures explicitly mention homophobia and transphobia.

Safe Schools Coalition Australia will help you make sure that all your school policies and procedures are as inclusive of diversity as possible and reflect current federal and state government anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies and legislation. The National Safe Schools Framework and the Safe Schools Hub are good resources to check out at [safeschoolshub.edu.au](http://safeschoolshub.edu.au). Once the policies are introduced or updated, be sure to 'launch' them and make sure the whole school community knows about what they say.

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## Take notice of incidents

Create a register of homophobic and transphobic incidents and what the school did in response. Make sure students know about the register and feel comfortable in reporting information.

This may also be a great time to conduct audits of staff and student attitudes and opinions. Get in touch to find out more and get access to simple and useful Safe Schools Coalition Australia audit tools. If you've already done these, perhaps do them again and see how things are improving.

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## Support student led action

If your school already has a gender or sexual diversity group, such as a Stand Out group, Queer-Straight-Alliance (QSA) or other diversity club, actively support the group's efforts! If your students don't have a group going, think about planning for days of action by the school like for International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBT) on May 17. Your SRC or other general student group may also like to take action on this.

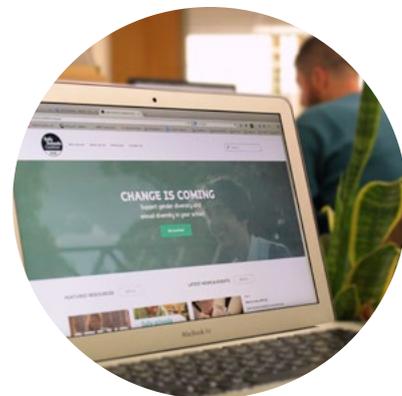
Planning for these events or other activities can provide a great opportunity to get students active for the first time. Make sure you mark any special dates in the school calendar.

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## Train staff to build their confidence

Identify and deliver on staff training needs. Make sure that all school staff are confident and capable of intervening against homophobic and transphobic behaviour. Safe Schools Coalition in your state or territory can provide whole of school staff training on supporting same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students, and challenging homophobia and transphobia, as well as offering support for dealing with specific incidents or challenges.

Get in touch to get advice or book your training session now!



### Get in touch

The Safe Schools Coalition Australia website has information and resources you can download or order, as well as advice and training opportunities you can take advantage of.

[www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au](http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au)