

STEPHEN LAWRENCE DAY

CHANGE
THE
STORY

22 APRIL

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Stephen Lawrence Day is about building a fairer and more inclusive society, but that can only happen when we treat everyone with fairness and respect. Last year JUST Lincolnshire* hosted an event to celebrate Stephen Lawrence Day, and young people at the event created videos highlighting the challenges of bullying, homophobia and transphobia. Each video has questions and activities to help you think about how we can work together to create a society in which everyone can flourish.

There are more short clips of young people talking about respecting difference on [BBC Bitesize](#).

Bullying: <https://vimeo.com/352230272>

Bullying can affect everyone - those who are bullied, those who bully, and those who witness bullying. It can lead to feelings of fear, depression, loneliness, anxiety, low self-esteem. It can also cause physical illness and people being bullied can even have suicidal thoughts.

Watch the video and explain what face-to-face and cyberbullying are.

Create a poster for your school that:

- Explains what bullying is
- Shares 5 top tips for your school to eradicate (remove) bullying and keep your school safe for everyone

Homophobia: <https://vimeo.com/352230874>

Homophobia encompasses a range of negative attitudes, feelings and behaviours towards homosexuality or people who are identified or perceived as being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). People can be homophobic in many different ways. Homophobia can take the form of insults, discrimination and even includes violence.

Watch the video and research a UK charity that works with LGBTQ+ for young people your age.

- Write a letter offering comfort and support to the character in the play who was gay and bullied
- Write a letter to one of the homophobic bullies in the play explaining how they can be more welcoming to everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity

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Transphobia: <https://vimeo.com/352231667>

Transgender people are people whose gender identity is different from the gender they were thought to be at birth. "Trans" is often used as shorthand for transgender.

When we're born, a doctor usually says that we're male or female based on what our bodies look like. Most people who were labelled male at birth turn out to actually identify as men, and most people who were labelled female at birth grow up to be women. But some people's gender identity - their inner sense of being male, female, or somewhere in between - is different from what was initially expected when they were born. Most of these people describe themselves as transgender' - National Centre of Transgender Equality.

Regardless of birth-assigned sex, someone may identify towards the feminine side, towards the masculine side, or anywhere along the gender spectrum between male and female. Only an individual knows their gender, and most know inside whether they are a girl, a boy, someone in between or neither.

Watch the video and then:

- Research a trans celebrity/famous person from the UK
- What challenges did they face in their life due to being trans?
- How could the world have been a better place for them to reduce the challenges they faced? (and that other trans people may face)

These are some tips for how to become a better ally to transgender people.