

Brief Discussion Sessions

Setting up brief 10-minute discussions based around scenarios or facts can provide a helpful foundation to start exploring deeper issues in the future. For example, look at the following scenarios alongside their discussion questions to have an open, facilitated debate. It's helpful to split the students into two groups and give each a perspective to respond from, either in support of or against the topic. The main goal is to question and challenge the sexuality norms they've grown up with so far. There's a lot of room for intersectional discussion throughout all of these examples as well.

Scenario 1

Caroline and her family are very religious. She reads the holy book daily, and attends services. Recently, Caroline's friend Tom has started dating another boy, Colin. Caroline doesn't think this is right, her religion says so, but she also still cares for Tom and wants to be his friend.

- What should Caroline do?
- Should she follow her religious views or her care for her friend?
- Is there a way for Caroline to stay friends with Tom and let him know how she feels?
- How can she do this?

Scenario 2

In some places in China there are matrilineal societies, meaning families that are established by the mothers, with 'walking marriages' where women have multiple partners, and children in their family might not all have the same father. All biological families live with each other, generation to generation, and couples don't share property. When the women are old enough, they may start having partners visit. They participate in night-time visits, but the man never stays until the morning. The woman can have as many or as few partners as she wants.

- Do you think there could be cultures like this in England?
- Why or why not?
- Have you heard of polyamory?
- Do you know anyone who is polyamorous?
- What are the advantages or disadvantages of polyamorous relationships?

Scenario 3

Jamie has two mums, and they usually walk him to school. He's starting a new school today, but he doesn't want his mums to drop him off in case the new kids start to make fun of him like they did at his old school.

- If Jamie went to school at this school, do you think would he be made fun of?
- What are some ways we can make sure Jamie feels good about showing up to school with his mums?
- Why would having two mums or two dads be different than having one of each?

Scenario 4

61% LGBT young people have self-harmed, 70% have thought about taking their own life and 22% have tried to take their own lives.

- Why might LGBT young people feel like this?
- Is there anything you can do to make sure no one feels like that?
- What could make a difference?

Another approach could be asking students to prepare 10-minute presentations (suggested icons are listed in Curriculum Subject Area LGBT Identities.) This will make the students more involved. A demonstration presentation could be about someone they know well, like Alan Turing or Florence Nightingale. You can emphasise in the presentation that it matters that we know these people were part of the LGBT community since it shows that LGBT people are extraordinary people and aren't always defined by the orientation.