

✦ LGBTQ+ History Month

February 2021



What is LGBTQ+ History Month?

LGBTQ+ History month is held in the UK every February. It is an annual celebration that provides education into the issues that the LGBTQ+ community faces.



According to Sue Sanders (left), the co-founder of LGBTQ+ History Month UK, **“the whole point of LGBTQ+ History month is to celebrate LGBTQ+ people in all their diversity, and in doing so, educate our prejudice.”**

LGBTQ+ History month originated in the USA in 1994. The first one in the UK took place 11 years later.

Source: The Independent, 2019

Section 28

In 2005 Sanders, alongside a fellow teacher Paul Patrick, organised LGBTQ+ History Month as part of a *Schools Out UK* project, a programme that aims to educate young people about the issues members of the LGBTQ+ community face and to make schools feel inclusive for everyone, regardless of their gender identify and sexual orientation.

The event was held in February to coincide with the 2003 abolition of Section 28 of the 1988 Local Government Act. This was a piece of legislation that stated that local authorities were not allowed to “intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality.”

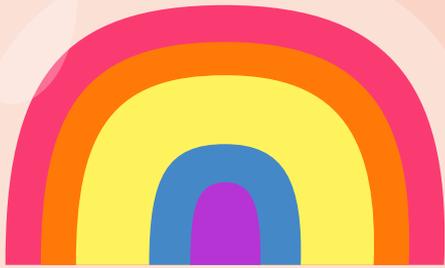
This meant that it used to be illegal for teachers to discuss LGBTQ+ issues with students in schools.

Source: *The Independent*, 2019

Talk Task 1

Do you understand the meanings of these words?

Take one minute to consider and then discuss your thoughts as a class - definitions are on the next slides.



BORN THIS WAY

Ally	Asexual	Bisexual
Cis/ Cisgender	Gay	Straight
Intersex	Lesbian	Non-binary
Pansexual	Queer	Trans/ Transgender

Definitions

1) A man who is attracted to other men. Sometimes the word is used by women who are attracted to women too, so we can say this word means a person who is attracted to other people of the same gender. (Gay)

2) A person who fights for, and supports others in their fight for equality, despite not being a member of the marginalised group, e.g. a heterosexual and/or cisgender person who believes in, and fights for equality, for LGBT+ people. (Ally)

3) Historically this word was used as a negative insult, however many people feel they have reclaimed the word to have a positive meaning. Some people use it as a collective term for LGBT+ people, and some use it to explain their gender, sexual or political identity. Some people still use this word as an insult, this is LGBTphobia and should be challenged. (Queer)

4) A person whose gender identity is in some way different to the gender they were assigned at birth. (Trans/Transgender)

5) A person of any gender or sexual orientation who experiences little, or no, sexual attraction. They may still experience other types of attraction, such as physical or romantic attraction. (Asexual)

6) A person who is attracted to people of a different gender, e.g. a man who is only attracted to women. (Straight)

Definitions

7) A person is assigned this term, often at birth, when their sex characteristics don't align with the medical definitions of "female" or "male". A person's external and internal body, as well as chromosomes and hormones, can all be factors when assigning sex. (Intersex)

8) A person of any gender who experiences attraction to people of their own gender, and other genders. (Bisexual)

9) A woman who is attracted to other women. (Lesbian)

10) An umbrella term for gender identities which are not confined by the gender binary of "women" and "men". These people may identify with no gender at all or with more than one gender. (Non-binary)

11) A person of any gender who is attracted to people of all genders. (Pansexual)

12) A person whose gender is the same or mostly the same as they were assigned at birth. (Cis/Cisgender)

Source: lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk

Talk Task 2



Why is it important for schools to embrace LGBTQ+ Month do you think?

How can we strive to become a safe and equal school here at Norwood?

What more is there to do?



It's a Sin

You may have seen *It's a Sin* ✨
advertised on Channel 4.

It is a hard-hitting and excellently ✨
performed drama about the Aids ✨
epidemic in the 1980's, and how this
affected members of the
homosexual community in
particular.



WHY 'IT'S A SIN'
RESONATES TODAY

It also strikes a chord with what is
happening in the world today -
check out this short video of an
interview with the show's creator
Russell T Davies.

Talk Task 3

Has anybody seen *It's a Sin* already? ✨

If so, what did you think? What key messages did you take from it? What parallels are there with what happened in the 80's and what is happening now? ✨ ✨

Creator Russell T Davis said in one interview that he was only prepared to cast gay actors to play gay roles.

Why do you think this is?
What are your thoughts about this?

It's a Sin is currently being aired every Friday evening at 9pm on Channel 4, but is also available on All4.

Definitely worth a watch!



Links

If you want to find out more about LGBTQ+ History Month, or LGBTQ+ issues in general, please visit the following websites:

- <https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk>
- <http://www.schools-out.org.uk>
- <https://www.stonewall.org.uk>

If you want to talk to anybody about any issues discussed today, please feel free to talk to an adult in school that you feel comfortable with.

Otherwise you are always welcome to send any messages, feedback or questions to the following email address:
lta@thenorwooschool.org

