



# All Together Now!

Addressing Homophobic & Transphobic Bullying in Primary Schools



## All Together Now!

# Addressing Homophobic & Transphobic Bullying in Primary Schools

All Together Now is composed of four lessons based in the SPHE curriculum for 5th and 6th classes in primary schools in Ireland. The lessons take an equality and human rights approach to respect, inclusion and homophobic and transphobic bullying.

**Lesson 1: Human Rights:** UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, relevant Irish laws. Aims: To allow children to become familiar with human rights with specific reference to homophobic and transphobic bullying; To explore the Equality Act and the Gender Recognition Act and identify what is discrimination and harassment and how individuals can counter these.

**Lesson 2: Bullying:** Definitions of bullying, perceptions of bullying, bullying behaviours, the 'Bully Circle' (including 'passive supporters' and 'defenders'), the Hurt Scale, LGBT words/Focail LADT. Aim: To enhance the pupils' understanding of bullying perceptions, definitions, types, behaviours, roles and apply this understanding to potential real life scenarios.

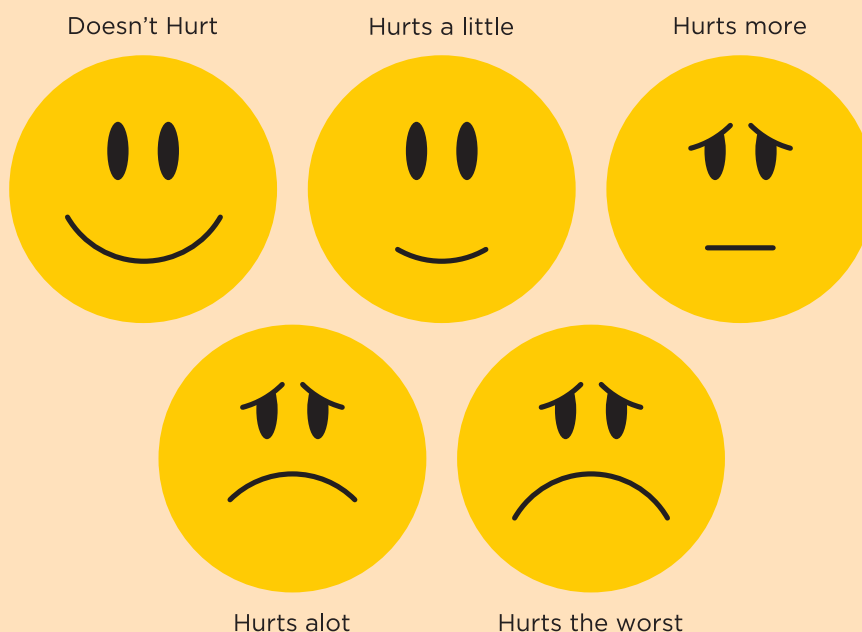
**Lesson 3: Responding to Bullying:** The school's Anti-Bullying Policy and Acceptable Usage Policy, responding to bullying, the effects of bullying. Aim: To give children the confidence to respond to bullying as a victim and bystander and to enhance pupil's empathetic skills.

**Lesson 4: All Together Now:** Belonging, positive endings (review some scenarios from previous lessons), rainbows. Aims: To consolidate children's learning in relation to homophobic and transphobic bullying; To explore the positive aspects of feeling a sense of belonging/respect; To identify ways in which children can apply their learning over these lessons in an age-appropriate way.

The lesson plans have teachers' power-points, scenarios, discussion questions and other tools for teaching pupils.

For example, the pupils are taught about types of identity-based bullying (based on the nine grounds of the Equality Acts and the DES Action Plan on Bullying.) They are also taught about bullying behaviours (such as verbal, physical, cyber, or social isolation.) They can then rate and discuss their responses to these different forms of bullying on the Hurt Scale below:

Lesson 2 : Activity 3  
Resource Sheet - Hurt Scale



## All Together Now!

# Addressing Homophobic & Transphobic Bullying in Primary Schools

### Why do we need All Together Now in Primary Schools in Ireland?

1. For years, BeLonG To has been told by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) young people that they faced homophobia and transphobia when they were in primary school.
2. LGBT young people's reports to BeLonG To have been validated by Irish research showing that unfortunately homophobia is widespread in primary schools in Ireland.
3. Addressing homophobia is also urgent for primary schools as 12 is the most common age for LGBT young people in Ireland to understand they are different (Mayock, 2008; Higgins et al, 2016.)
4. LGBT bullying has a devastating impact on young people, leading to higher rates of serious mental health difficulties like suicide attempts and self-harm (Higgins et al, 2016.)
5. The Department of Education & Skills *Anti-Bullying Procedures (Circular 0045/2013)* require all levels of schools to tackle all types of bullying, and specifically names homophobic and transphobic bullying.

### The All Together Now pilot project

BeLonG To began the project by inviting key stakeholders in primary education to join an Advisory Group (see back page for a list of Advisory Group members.) Following a competitive tender process, a research team from St. Patrick's College (DCU) was recruited to lead the project. Dr Bernie Collins, Dr Seline Keating and Prof Mark Morgan brought outstanding expertise in primary education. The research team and the Advisory Group quickly agreed that, given that there has been little work on this topic in primary schools, the best method would be to develop classroom materials for 5th and 6th classes that address homophobia and transphobia by fostering inclusion and respect.

A training module for All Together Now! was developed by staff from BeLonG To and St. Patrick's College. In all, 30 teachers and principals attended a module (in Dublin, Wexford and Donegal) while 9 teachers had school-based training before teaching the pilot lessons.

All Together Now was piloted in 14 schools in 2016: 9 Catholic, 3 Educate Together and 2 Community National schools. Two were DEIS schools. The lessons were delivered by teachers in 27 classes: 4th/5th (2); 5th (6); 5th/6th (2); 6th (17); in Wexford, Dublin and Donegal. The policy of each participating school was carefully followed in regard to how principals and teachers gathered parental consent.

The researchers used surveys and other methods to evaluate the teacher training and classroom materials. Feedback on All Together Now from teachers and principals was hugely positive. To quote two teachers, *'there is a real need for a programme like this;': 'the content is very important especially for 6th Class moving forward to secondary school.'*

Teachers' assessment of children's learning was equally enthusiastic:

***'The children reacted brilliantly in the lessons. They showed a maturity I hadn't expected and they felt almost 'empowered' when they learned the little things they do could help to make a stand against all types of bullying'***

(6th Class teacher.)

***'They were both interested and shocked when the school's anti-bullying policy and procedures are explained and what happens within the school when bullying is reported or occurs'***

(4th/5th Class teacher.)

***'The children came out of the lesson with a hugely positive attitude towards making a stand against bullying and to me that was a success.'***

(6th Class teacher)

***'The children became involved from the very beginning. They liked discussing the rights of the child and were shocked at some of the rights listed. They had taken these rights for granted'***

(6th class teacher.)

See the research report for a full discussion of the pilot project: [www.belongto.org/primary](http://www.belongto.org/primary)

### Focail LADT/LGBT Words for Primary Schools:

We have a glossary of terms at [www.belongto.org/primary](http://www.belongto.org/primary)

**All Together Now** was commissioned by BeLonG To Youth Services with funding from the Department of Education and Skills. The research took place from 2015 – 2016 and was led by a team from St. Patrick's College, DCU: Dr Bernie Collins, Dr Seline Keating & Prof Mark Morgan. The research team also wrote the All Together Now classroom lessons, available at [www.belongto.org/primary](http://www.belongto.org/primary)

Thank you to the All Together Now Advisory Group for their generous support and feedback throughout the project. The Advisory Group comprised representatives of: Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO); INTO-LGBT Teachers' Group; Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN); National Parents' Council; Catholic

Primary Schools Management Association (CPSMA); Educate Together; Community National Schools (Dublin - Dun Laoghaire); Church of Ireland Board of Education; Gay & Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN); Transgender Education Network Ireland (TENI); Marino Institute; and the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) of the Department of Education & Skills. The project also greatly benefitted from input and feedback from the Inspectorate of the Department of Education & Skills.

BeLonG To and St. Patrick's College are grateful to the Department of Education & Skills for resourcing this project under government's *Action Plan on Bullying*.



Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans Young People in Ireland

### How can I help?

There are lots of ways you can help tackle homophobia and support LGBT+ young people to be happy and fulfil their potential.

### Make a donation

Regular donations from supporters like you are hugely important as they provide us with funds that we can rely on, and use to budget and plan for the future. Every donation of €40 provides a one-to-one support session. Many LGBT+ young people arrive at our door in crisis, these one-to-one support sessions are a vital lifeline for these young people.

### Host your own fundraising event

There are lots of great ways to get your community involved to raise funds to help our suicide and self-harm prevention services for LGBT+ young people. For example, you could hold a bake off, run the women's mini marathon, host a table quiz, or you could take on a major challenge like the Dublin City Marathon in aid of BeLonG To and LGBT+ young people.

### Get in touch

If you have any questions, want to make a donation, want some help organising your own fundraising event, or getting your organization involved please contact Oisín O'Reilly our Fundraising Manager on 01 681 4821 or [oisin@belongto.org](mailto:oisin@belongto.org)

**BeLonG To Youth Services, 13 Parliament St., Dublin 2, Ireland.**  
[www.belongto.org/primary](http://www.belongto.org/primary)



© 2016