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LGBTQIA YOUTH AT SCHOOLS





DESCRIPTION

There is concerning evidence that LGBTQIA students at educational institutions often suffer bullying because of their gender identity and/or sexuality. Besides, research indicates that educators regularly fail to take action in the face of anti-LGBT phobias and are often not equipped to address these issues. This may lead to several negative consequences for them, from bad academic performance to mental health issues. The good news is that there are things that teachers and schools can do to help LGBTQIA kids to face these issues and be true allies.

In this course the participants will explore practical ways in which they can create a welcoming and safe environment for LGBTQIA young people in classes. The participants will learn about using welcoming symbols, developing positive relationships with them, promoting their healthy relationships with other members of the school community by using inclusive language always, like the use of their chosen pronouns. There will be the discussions on how to challenge homophobia and transphobia in the classroom or the playground. The tutor will encourage the participants to liaise with rainbow families who already belong to the school community as well as with LGBTQIA support groups and associations to both include them in the school community and build a climate of support around the LGBTQIA students.

By the end of the course, everyone will be able to create a safer environment for LGBTQIA students by implementing concrete strategies that build respect, trust and care for all equally. Hence, the teachers will become a visible allies for the LGBTQIA community at school and will model this positive role for other teachers, students and staff alike.



COMPETENCES

- Knowledge about LGBTQIA students' situation, their feelings, needs and fears,
- Engaging and building trust with LGBTQIA students,
- Ability to take action and supporting LGBTQIA students,
- Using inclusive language,
- Running and promoting LGBTQIA supporting groups for parents, families and friends of LGBTQIA students,
- Ability to treat all the students equally.



RESULTS

By completing the course the participants will be able to:

- Create a safe environment for LGBTQIA students,
- Apply strategies to become a true LGBTQIA ally at their schools,
- Identify the difference among the concepts sex, sexuality, gender and gender identity,
- Prevent and mediate in bullying situations where LGBTQIA students are involved,
- Identify opportunities for connecting with the wider LGBTQIA community for a deeper impact.



METHODOLOGY

During the course, many topics will be covered by discussion, group analysis of data and reality, group's concerns. The group will work by brainstorming, encouraging creativity to find solutions adaptable in youth surroundings. The training will be conducted in a relaxed atmosphere.



DAY BY DAY

WELCOME SESSION

By Project Coordinator
Introducing the Tutor
Handing in of the course folders and useful information
Introducing the course objectives.

DAY 1: Key LGBTQIA terminology and concepts

09:00-14:00 Understanding what it means to be a member of the LGBTQIA community.
Essentials for teachers' support of their queer students.

COFFEE BREAK

Meaning of all the letters of the acronym LGBTQIA.

Discussion about the essential differences between the concepts of sex, sexuality, gender and gender identity.

DAY 2: Being queer in heteronormative schools

09:00-14:00 What is it like today to be a queer kid at school?

COFFEE BREAK

Exploring the challenges queer kids face and the negative consequences these can bring into their lives.

The situation of LGBTQIA learner in some EU countries.

DAY 3: Becoming an ally for queer students

09:00-14:00

Inclusive language.

Articulating positive relationships with queer students that make them feel safe.

COFFEE BREAK

Awareness of professionals and support groups to refer them to when necessary.

Protocols to follow when observing homophobic or transphobic behaviour from other students, staff members or parents/care takers against queer students.

DAY 4: Understanding transgender youth

09:00-14:00

Transgender youth and their challenges

Meaning of being transgender, an umbrella term that covers several different gender identifications.

COFFEE BREAK

Analysis of typical misconceptions and prejudices against transgender people.

Ways to help transgender students to affirm their gender at school.

DAY 5: Schoolwide action and connection with the wider LGBTQIA Community

09:00-14:00

Promoting schoolwide policies and collaboration networks as one of the most efficient ways to support queer students at your school.

COFFEE BREAK

Examples on how to foster staff collaboration and policies that can be implemented to establish clear guidelines on how to support LGBTQIA students at school.

Benefits of liaising with local LGBTQIA associations and rainbow families to facilitate a solid and long-term support network for queer students.



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