

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

These terms are just a starting point - there are many other sexual orientations. The internet will give you lots of other options - but be careful as you may find there are so many that you can't remember them all!

These terms should be used as **adjectives only**; they should not be used as nouns. For example, you would say 'a gay person' or 'a straight person' rather than 'a gay' or 'a straight'.

Language	Definition
gay	Used to describe a person who is attracted to other people of the same gender as them. <i>This used to only refer to men, but that definition is now outdated.</i>
lesbian	Used to describe a woman who is only attracted to other women.
bisexual	Used to describe someone who is attracted to people of their own gender and to the opposite gender.
pansexual	Used to describe a person who is attracted to people of all genders.
asexual	Used to describe someone who does not experience sexual attraction.
straight	Used to describe a person who is only attracted to people of the opposite gender.

GENDER IDENTITY

Again, these are a starting point. There are lots of gender identities. The best way to find out how to refer to someone is to ask them.

These terms should be used as **adjectives only**; they should not be used as nouns. For example, you would say 'a trans person' rather than 'a trans'.

Language	Definition
trans	Used to describe a person whose gender is different to the one they were assigned at birth. <i>You should always refer to people using the gender they identify as. For example, a person who was assigned female at birth and now identifies as male would be referred to as a trans man.</i> <i>Please note that, when used with man / woman / boy / girl, trans is a stand alone word, and is not combined and used as a prefix (e.g. trans man or trans woman, not transman or transwoman).</i> <i>Transgender is one word. You should not use transgendered.</i>
cis	Used to describe a person whose gender is the same as the one they were assigned at birth. <i>Please note that, when used with man / woman / boy / girl, cis is a stand alone word, and is not combined and used as a prefix (e.g. cis man or cis woman, not cisman or ciswoman).</i> <i>Cisgender is one word. You should not use cisgendered.</i>
non-binary	Used to describe a person whose gender is outside of the binary of 'man' and 'woman'. Some non-binary people may also refer to themselves as: Gender fluid Gender queer Agender Demiboy / Demigirl / Demigender <i>Please note that non-binary people are not always androgynous. They may be androgynous; they may also present as more traditionally masculine, or more traditionally feminine, or they may move between different types of presentations. Some non binary people have different genders at different times, some have multiple genders at once.</i>

DISCUSSING PHOBIC COMMENTS

These are suggested ways in which you can challenge LGBTQ+ phobic language or behaviours.. They are intended as a guide only.

Language	Suggested response
Use of the word 'gay' as an insult.	<i>Do you know what the word gay means? Why do you think we should not use this word as an insult? Using 'gay' as an insult suggests that to be LGB is something to be ashamed of, and that you see it as a negative. This is not showing respect to others and is homophobic language.</i>
Use of an outdated term (e.g. 'trannie'; 'cross dresser'; 'transvestite') (These words all relate to wearing clothes of a different gender - transvestite comes from the Latin <i>trans</i> (on the other side, across) and the latin <i>vestire</i> (clothe).	<i>We don't use that word any more as it is considered offensive by the trans community. It is not respectful to others. That word refers to people who dress in the clothes of a different gender, and suggests that the person's gender remains the same but they are wearing the 'wrong' clothes. Wearing clothes of the opposite gender used to be a criminal offence, as recently as the 1960s, so we now talk about the gender of a person rather than the clothes they wear.</i> <i>The correct word to use is transgender / trans man / trans woman / non binary, etc.</i>

ANSWERING QUESTIONS

These are suggested responses to questions that might be raised in school. The list is not exhaustive, and you do not have to use these exact responses. They are intended as a guide only.

Question	Suggested response
Is a trans woman a woman? Is a trans man a man?	<i>Yes. Everyone has the right to identify their own gender and we should respect that right. It is not up to anyone else to question another person's gender. Whatever your opinion on this matter is, to say that a trans woman is not a woman, or that a trans man is not a man, is a transphobic comment.</i>
Science says there are only two sexes. You're either a man or a woman. So how can people say they are neither, or something else?	<i>There are lots of examples in Science that show us that sex is not binary - intersex people for example. Also most of us don't know what chromosomes we have so we don't know whether we are chromosomally male or female.</i> <i>I think you are thinking about gender. Non-binary people, and trans people, are talking about their gender. Your gender is not decided by your body, your sex characteristics, or your chromosomes. Your gender is how you feel, and is decided by you. No one has the right to tell you, or anyone else, what your gender is; that decision is yours.</i>