

## What can parents do?

- Talk to your child. Ask how they are feeling and if everything is OK at school
- Be supportive. Your child needs to know that if they do decide to talk to you about bullying, you will listen and that they can trust you with what they tell you
- Remember that homophobic bullying can affect any young person, regardless of their sexual orientation
- Do some research so you can support your child
- Check with the school what procedures they have in place for dealing with bullying and in particular, homophobic bullying
- Involve your child in any decisions that are taken on how to tackle the bullying

You may feel you need to talk to someone about your child coming out, click the link below:

<http://www.gayderbyshire.org.uk/info-advice-support/family-friends/>



## Homophobic Bullying

### What is homophobic bullying?

Homophobic bullying is when people behave or speak in a way which makes someone feel bullied because of their actual or perceived sexuality.



People may be a target of homophobic bullying because of their appearance, behaviour, other physical traits or because they have friends or family who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender or just because they are seen as being different.

PREVENTING AND TACKLING **BULLYING** IN DERBYSHIRE

## Homophobic bullying advice

Like all forms of bullying, homophobic bullying can be through name calling, spreading rumours, physical or sexual and emotional abuse.



This type of bullying can also include threats to 'out' you to friends and family about your sexuality, even if you are not gay, lesbian or bisexual.

If you're being bullied in this way you need to tell your parents and report it to a teacher. Keep a diary of the remarks or behaviour, where the incidents happened and of any witnesses.



If this sort of bullying spills over into violence then it should be reported as a hate crime. You can report any hate crime to **Stop Hate UK** or to Derbyshire Police.

If it's an emergency dial **999**, non-emergencies dial **101** or visit your local police enquiry office

**STOP HATE CRIME**  
**0800 138 1625**  
**24 HOUR HELP LINE**

## How common is it?

According to Stonewall's research, homophobic bullying is the second most frequent form of bullying. Of those who have suffered homophobic bullying:



- 92% have experienced verbal abuse
- 41% physical bullying
- 17% received death threats
- 12% faced sexual assault

Most bullying is carried out by children within their year group.

## Support in Derbyshire

Safe Speak Young People's Counselling

Counselling service for young people aged 9-19 in various schools and non-school venues in Derby City and Derbyshire. Deal with a range of issues including relationship difficulties, bullying, emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

Phone: **0800 093 5264** freephone

Email: [info@safespeak.org.uk](mailto:info@safespeak.org.uk)

Website: [www.safespeak.org.uk](http://www.safespeak.org.uk)