

Classroom D iscussion

“How might you begin to recognise your sexuality or gender identity?”

Teacher: How might you begin to recognise your sexuality or gender identity?”

Student A: You might fancy certain characters on TV or prefer to dress in a certain way...

Student B: yeah but, sexuality has nothing to do with how you dress!

Student C: Course it does, some people just look proper gay. [a group of students start sniggering]

Student D: You can't say that! It's homophobic!

Student C: Are you calling me a homophobe ?! [Some students start jeering]

Teacher: Alright , calm down. Student A, you were saying about maybe having a crush on a character or preferring to dress in a certain way. When you talk about dressing a certain way, are you referring to sexuality or gender?

Student A: gender.

Student E: But can't you be a tomboy and still be a girl? Girls don't have to wear girly clothes and boys don't have to dress boyish. That's just gender norms. Dressing differently doesn't mean they are trans.

Student F: [whispers to partner] Trans people aren't real. If you are born a man then you're a man. You can't change genders! It's wrong!

Student G: Miss! That's transphobic.

Student C: Ooooh triggered! [some students start laughing and heckling]

Teacher: Enough! Student A, you are right. Some people might show their gender through the clothes they chose to wear. Does anybody have anything else they'd like to share?

Student H: My sister is gay and she said that she had crushes on other girls when she was in pre-school.

Student I: What ?! How can she have had crushes when she was just a kid. That's weird.

Student H: My sister is not weird!

Teacher: Well, thank you student H. That's it for today.