

Overview of ‘The Legacy of Wolfenden’ sessions

Aim

To develop a range of sessions/activities that could be adapted and developed by confident teachers.

Objectives

To increase awareness of Wolfenden, the role he had in partial decriminalisation of homosexuality and the legacy of the Wolfenden report.

How this change in legislation laid a foundation stone for the more inclusive society in which we now live (in the UK)

Notes

The order is in two sections or groups of sessions: Sessions A, B, C have a ‘history’ focus and Sessions D, E, F have a ‘PSHE/identity’ focus.

Activity

We provide optional and flexible activities for each session.

We intend to introduce teachers to the key topics during training and offer the opportunity for teachers to explore their own knowledge and any misconceptions.

Ground rules should be set for all classes. Personal stories can be very powerful; classes can be introduced to the idea that they could tell a story about ‘someone they know’ or ‘they heard about someone who...’ to retain confidentiality and encourage the sharing of stories. Teachers can do the same.

Resources

We also offer some resources with advice on where to find additional resources.

There is a wide range of resources included and they should be previewed before a session as pupils will have good, perhaps challenging questions. That is a successful outcome of the sessions for pupils but some teachers may feel out of their comfort zone so it is important to preview any videos etc that will be used with classes.

Suggested ground rules:

Confidentiality “What is said in the room, stays in the room.”

Listening “We show respect by listening”

Participation “We encourage everyone to contribute”

Questions like “I wonder if...”, “how might it be...”, “it is

	OK to ask questions, but there might not be answers”.
Plenary	
We have included questions for reflection in this section to allow a range of pupil voices to be heard or articulated.	

SESSION D: Identity- what does identity mean and why is it important?

Aim
To provide a safe space to talk about identity
Objectives
<p>To know that gay men had to hide their identity or be criminalised</p> <p>To know that Peter Wildeblood revealed his identity as a gay man to the Wolfenden committee</p> <p>To discuss identity and our identities</p> <p>To discuss why it is important to respect how a person identifies.</p>

Notes	
<p>It is important to ensure the classroom is a safe and inclusive environment to discuss gender and sexuality. We recommend reviewing the ground rules of confidentiality, respect and participation.</p> <p>Prior to the lesson, create your own identities body as an example for students.</p>	
Activity	Resources
<p>STARTER ACTIVITY- What does identity mean ? (5 minutes)</p> <p>As a class discuss the question above.</p> <p>Play video “Fun Arts Teens- Self Identity” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5R37dnTCHU STOP at 0:50</p>	<p>“Fun Arts Teens- Self Identity” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5R37dnTCHU</p>

<p>Activity 1: Identity and me. (10 minutes)</p> <p>Ask students to spend 5 minutes drawing and annotating the unisex body to show their various identities. They may chose to draw pictures to show their hobbies, draw their families or words to describe themselves such as ‘kind’, ‘sister’, ‘friend’</p> <p>In pairs, discuss the following questions and then discuss as a class.</p> <p>Why is identity important?</p> <p>Why can it be difficult to know your identity?</p> <p>Mention to students that it can be difficult to accept yourself and to know that how you are feeling is ok. It can be difficult to find the words or labels that fit, there are so many labels!</p>	<p>Hand out copies of ‘Identity and Me’ from the training pack (1 per student).</p>
<p>Activity 2: “Labels are for clothing, not people” (15 minutes)</p> <p>Ask students to consider the following questions:</p> <p>Why might somebody not want a label? (<i>They could be worried about stereotypes or being rejected for who they are. They may find labels confusing</i>)</p> <p>How could a label be seen to be limiting?</p> <p>Collect answers on a flipchart sheet or Smartboard Notepad.</p> <p>Some people find labels too restrictive- Identity can change over time and labels might no longer be appropriate.</p> <p>Can anybody think of any example where a label may no longer fit? (e.g vegetarian, christian, bisexual individual may realise that they are pansexual)</p> <p>“Sometimes labels can be dangerous”</p> <p>Play clip from Wildeblood trial</p> <p>Discuss as a class</p> <p>What did it mean for men like Peter Wildeblood to be called ‘gay’ or ‘queer’?</p> <p>What was the consequence?</p> <p>Why do you think it was so shocking that Peter Wildeblood came out as gay during the trial? Are there still places in the world where it can be dangerous to have a label such a gay or transgender?</p> <p>In groups, ask students to discuss the following question and reach an agreement:</p> <p>Do you think labels help or hinder?</p>	<p>Hand out copies of the Genderbread Person</p> <p>You may wish to revisit the event card for the Wildeblood trial.</p> <p>Wildeblood excerpt</p> <p>“ "Against the Law" - Order now” by Network Distributing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6iYjuqbrY</p> <p>Play “Coming out isn’t always easy”- by Psychosoprano . START 6:24 STOP 9:12 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qh1T9PXpEOw</p> <p>Hand out blank paper for students to create posters.</p>

Activity 3: Why it is important to respect someone's identity and how they see themselves (15 minutes)

In pairs, ask students to consider the following questions:

Have you ever been told you can't do something because you are a boy or a girl?

What happens when you can't be yourself?

What happens when your identity is questioned or rejected? How do you think that makes somebody feel?

Play video

How did it make Kory feel when people rejected him?

Ask students to create posters encouraging people to respect each other's identities.

Plenary

Why do you think people question one another's identities?

How might you show respect for somebody's identity?

Homework opportunity: Finish posters encouraging people to respect each other's identities.