



## FAQs

**Q- Which websites can I access to gain more information about LGBT+?**

A-There are many websites out there to inform you about LGBT+. See below for a few that our LGBT+ staff team access frequently:

<https://lgbt.foundation/>

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/>

<https://switchboard.lgbt/>

<https://thebeyouproject.co.uk/resources/>

<https://www.fflag.org.uk/>

<https://www.theproudtrust.org/>

<https://www.lgbthealth.org.uk>

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

**Q-Who can I contact in school regarding LGBT+?**

A- In the first instance, you can email your child's Form Tutor, Head of Year or Pastoral Manager. Details for individual staff email accounts can be found on the school website: [MHS Staff List](#). Alternatively, you can directly email the LGBT+ staff group on [LGBT@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:LGBT@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk).

**Q- Are there any student groups in or outside of school that my child could attend?**

A-Within school we have an LGBT+ social club every Blue Friday in the Art Dept. This is led by our LGBT+ staff team and other staff members always pop in. Local LGBT+ student focussed groups can be found [here](#).

**Q- Can you share the resources that you share through assemblies, tutor periods to increase and celebrate LGBT+ community?**

A-Yes, of course. Links of resources are on the [LGBT+ website page](#).

**Q- How can the school support my child if they identify as LGBT+?**

A-They will have many avenues of support at school. We can support them by seeing if they're interested in attending our LGBT+ group after school on Blue Fridays. They will also gain support from a member of staff from the LGBT+ team and our excellent year teams.

**Q- How can I ensure my home is a safe and calming environment if my child is LGBT+?**

A-There are many ways to do this but the main way is to ensure they know they can talk to you without any judgement. The link [here](#) is an excellent resource which can help you cultivate a secure, supportive and safe home.

**Q- My child is questioning (Q) their gender and/or sexuality? What should I do?**

A-Let your child explain how they feel and that you are there to listen. The [link](#) from Stonewall can also help to support this conversation.

**Q- Are there any case studies that I can read to support my child?**

A-We don't want to share case studies of our own students but there are excellent resources from [lgbthealth.org.uk](#) who offer several anonymous case studies on page 2 and 4, the link to this is [here](#).

**Q- My child is LGBT+. How can I show them that everything will be okay?**

A-Just keep positive and let them know you love them and you are there to support them. If your child does experience any negativity, please inform the correct agencies that can offer support (e.g. school, support groups). Alternatively, why not watch some videos from ["The It Gets Better"](#) project on YouTube?

From their channel: "The It Gets Better Project" exists to uplift, empower, and connect LGBTQ+ youth around the globe. Growing up isn't easy, especially when you are trying to affirm and assert your sexual orientation and/or gender identity. It can be a challenging and isolating process – but, the good news is, no one has to do it alone. We hope stories from people around the world, including RuPaul, Jane Lynch, Sir Ian McKellen and Laverne Cox, help inspire you today!

**Q- What are the Stonewall Riots?**

A-This text was taken from [stonewall.org.uk](#):

"On this day 50 years ago, an uprising took place at the Stonewall Inn in New York City. As it was raided by the police in the early hours, three nights of unrest followed, with LGBT people, long frustrated by police brutality, finally fighting back. Lesbians and trans women of colour were some of the key people involved in the act of resistance, including Stormé DeLarverie, Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson. This anniversary is a reminder of the power of standing

together in defiance of those who seek to divide us. The Stonewall uprising took place in the context of broader civil rights movements. The Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention in 1970 was a key moment in which activists from Black Power, feminist and gay liberation movements came together, saw common cause and learned from each other.”

One of the reasons MHS has “progress pride flags” outside our building is to remember the People of Colour (POC) within the LGBT+ community.

**Q- Could you explain a brief history of the LGBT+ community?**

A-There isn't such a thing as a 'brief' history. Since time began, there is evidence of LGBT+ communities all around the globe. The link [here](#) does explain a timeline of LGBT+ historical rights from the 1950's to the present day.

**Q- Who can my child talk to in school about LGBT+?**

A-We are proud to be an inclusive school at Marple Hall and so your child can talk to any adult about LGBT+ including: the dedicated LGBT+ staff team, Form Tutors, Head of Year and Pastoral Manager. Speaking to friends should also be encouraged.

**Q- What is the school's policy/guidelines on LGBT+ awareness?**

A-We have a dedicated LGBT+ team who develop awareness of LGBT+ around school. Every year they have a plan to develop inclusion and awareness and these plans are implemented by our students who attend the LGBT+ group. All language of this nature is challenged by staff and offending students will be put into Internal Exclusion (IE), with parents/carers contacted.

**Q- If my child is LGBT+, how should I react? I don't want them to think I'm disappointed.**

A-Have a look at the links above especially [www.fflag.org.uk](http://www.fflag.org.uk) as this is specifically aimed at family and friends of LGBT+ people. However, tell them that you are proud of them and that you are there to support them and love them for being so brave. Keep positive and learn about the LGBT+ community as a family.

**Q- Where can I read more about adolescent LGBT+?**

A-Take a look at the range of websites above but the 'family lives' website is a good place to start, the link is [here](#).

**Q- How does the school tackle LGBT+ bullying?**

A-We have a zero-tolerance approach towards any type of homo-/transphobic, racist and disablist language used within school.

Students are challenged by staff who then engage them in a conversation over how they have been offensive. Parents/carers and relevant staff are made aware and the student is placed in Internal Exclusion (IE) where they complete educational and reflective tasks to challenge the language or actions they demonstrated within school. All students will have a conversation with Mrs Hyde (our IE Manager) or a member of the LGBT+ team to ensure that the offending student knows what they said or did was wrong. If this behaviour continues, the relevant Head of Year and PM lead on it and SLT are made aware. Appropriate plans are then put in place as the student is demonstrating a 'hate crime'. Parents and carers are made aware of every step of the situation so that conversations can also be had at home. School will always support parents and carers and signpost them to relevant information.

**Q- Are there any support groups for Parents?**

A-Access the 'FFLAG' website (see above) and search for any local groups. However, if you want to create a parent hub within MHS for our LGBT+ community, please email Mr Purdie and we can talk about implementing something in the near future.

**Q- Who is the LGBT+ lead at Marple Hall School?**

A-We have a dedicated LGBT+ staff team which includes Mr Purdie (CL of Technology), Ms Murray (PM: Y10), Miss Gowrie (MFL), Miss Hoyle (Art Technician) and Miss Blackburn (LSA).

**Q- I don't understand much about LGBT+. What does it stand for?**

A- Access any of the links above to read more widely about LGBT+. If you have any specific questions, please feel free to contact the school and we can offer advice.

The acronym LGBT+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender. Some versions are also LGBTQIA+, the 'Q' stands for Questioning, 'I' for Intersex, 'A' for Asexual and the '+' covers all different genders and sexualities within the spectrum.

**Q- How is gender and sexuality different?**

A-The excellent resource, “The Genderbread person” [here](#) explains this in an easy and visual way. If you need any more clarification, please feel to email the LGBT+ team on [LGBT@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:LGBT@marplehall.stockport.sch.uk).

**Q- Are there any famous LGBT+ people?**

A-There are many well-known LGBT+ famous people. In our school we have two displays showing just a small few and we plan to develop LGBT+ displays in each curriculum area. A few famous people are: Gareth Thomas (G), Elton John (G), Rylan Clarke-Neal (G), Ellen DeGeneres (L), Clare Balding (L), Sandy Toksvig (L), Cara Delevingne (B), Lady Gaga (B), Duncan James (B), Caitlyn Jenner (T), India Willoughby (T) and Luke Anderson (T).

**Q- Are there any ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ things to ask?**

A-Lots of advice is available on the websites above but a few key things not to say to your child are: “it’s a phase”, say ‘okay, let’s look up some research just to understand it fully’. One key document is from Stonewall, the link is [here](#).

**Q- Are there any good fiction or non-fiction books about LGBT+ that I could read with my child?**

A- Our English Dept have lots of fiction and non-fiction book recommendations and they regularly post a variety of recommended reads, including LGBT+ and BAME literature, over on their Twitter page. You can find their account here: [link](#).

**Q- My child is BAME, is there any support if they are LGBT+?**

A-Again lots of support is offered at school. One way we demonstrate support for our BAME community is by having ‘progress pride’ flags in front of each of the school buildings. We recognise that BAME communities may feel different towards people that are LGBT+ so check this advice out from [Stonewall Scotland](#).

**If you need more guidance on health or emotional support, the following links below might be helpful:**

**Trans health:**

[NHS](#) offers transgender health advice and support.

The Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust’s [Gender Identity Development Service](#) offers health advice and support to young people presenting with difficulties with their gender identity.

**LGB health advice**

[NHS](#) offers LGB health information and support.

**Domestic abuse**

[Galop](#) is a national LGBT+ domestic abuse helpline.

**Children and young people**

[Childline](#) provides free, confidential advice, support and counselling on any issue.

**If you require emotional support**

[Samaritans](#) provides emotional support to anyone in emotional distress, struggling to cope, or at risk of suicide.