



Lockyer's Middle School
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Dear Year 5 Parents and Carers,

At Lockyer's Middle School, we are committed to creating a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment where every child feels valued, respected, and supported.

Recently, we have been addressing instances of pupils using the word 'gay' in a derogatory way (for example, using it to describe something as bad, unwanted or annoying). While children aged 9 and 10 often repeat phrases without fully understanding their meaning or intending harm, using identity terms in a negative context is hurtful and discriminatory and it has no place in our school community.

As educators, parents, and carers, we share a responsibility to guide our children in understanding how their words affect others. In school, we address this directly through our PSHE curriculum, year group assemblies, and restorative conversations. We focus on helping pupils to understand how to communicate in a respectful manner where tolerance and mutual respect is encouraged across all interactions.

We kindly ask for your support in reinforcing these values at home. Having open conversations about kindness, empathy and respect helps young people understand the positive power of their words.

Gentle ways to approach this conversation at home:

- **Explore their understanding:** Ask your child what they think the word means and where they might have heard it used.
- **Explain the meaning:** Reiterate that gay describes a person's identity and who they love, such as two men or two women who are married or in a relationship, and that it should never be used as a substitute for 'bad' or 'weird.'
- **Discuss the real-world impact:** Remind them that using someone's identity as a joke or insult can be deeply hurtful, even if they didn't intend to cause harm.

Thank you for your partnership in fostering a kind, respectful community where every child and family can thrive.

Yours sincerely,

Miss A Dufek, Headteacher

