

**GET  
OVER  
IT!**

**BE  
GAY.**

**USING 'GAY' THE RIGHT WAY**



**'GAY'. GET OVER IT!**

**GAY.**

**IT'S AMAZING HOW SUCH A SMALL WORD CAN CAUSE SO MUCH TROUBLE.**

**ALL 'GAY' MEANS IS THAT YOU'RE INTO PEOPLE OF THE SAME SEX. YOU KNEW THAT.**

**BOYS WHO FANCY BOYS.**

**GIRLS WHO FANCY GIRLS.**

**THAT'S ALL IT MEANS. NO BIG DEAL.**

**AND WHILE MOST OF US ARE GROWN UP  
ENOUGH TO BE COOL ABOUT IT,  
SOME PEOPLE STILL USE THE WORD 'GAY'  
TO MEAN 'RUBBISH'. MAYBE THEY DON'T  
MEAN TO SOUND HOMOPHOBIC.**

**BUT THEY DO.**

**THIS BOOKLET SHOULD HELP YOU TO HELP THEM GET OVER IT.**

A large, bold, black question mark is the central focus of the image. It is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its stem extending downwards and to the left. The question mark is solid black and has a thick, uniform stroke.

**WHERE DID 'THAT'S SO GAY'  
COME FROM?**

**YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE...**

**THINGS CATCH ON...**

**THEY 'GO VIRAL'...**

**AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED HERE.**



**YEARS AGO...**

**(THAT'S HOW TIRED THIS STUFF IS!)**

WHEN PEOPLE WEREN'T SO ACCEPTING, THEY REALLY DID THINK IT WAS RUBBISH TO BE GAY AND SO THEY SIMPLY SWAPPED

'THAT'S SO

RUBBISH!

WITH

GAY!

'THAT'S SO

**IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MOST PEOPLE KNOW  
THAT GAY PEOPLE ARE JUST LIKE EVERYONE  
ELSE AND CERTAINLY DON'T THINK THAT BEING  
GAY IS RUBBISH. THE PROBLEM IS THAT,  
EVEN THOUGH OUR ATTITUDES HAVE CHANGED,  
THE LANGUAGE SOME PEOPLE USE HASN'T.**

**SO APART FROM BEING INSULTING, IT'S ALL A BIT**

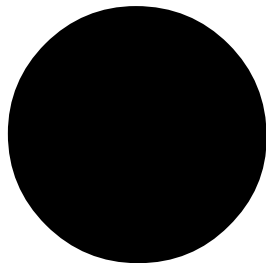
**LAST**

**CENTURY.**

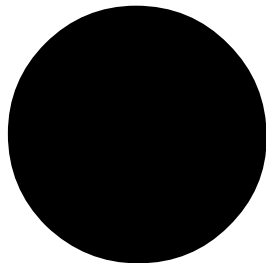


**IS IT A LOAD OF FUSS ABOUT NOTHING?**

**THE TRUTH IS**



**WORDS ARE IMPORTANT.**



**AND THAT MEANS THAT EVERY TIME A GAY PERSON HEARS SOMEONE SAY,**

**'OH, THAT'S SO GAY'**

**THEY'RE BEING RUBBISHED. HEARING IT CONSTANTLY USED**

**TO MEAN RUBBISH**

**STARTS TO MAKE PEOPLE THINK THE FACT THAT THEY'RE GAY IS**

**A BAD THING**

**OR SOMETHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.**

**IT MIGHT NOT SEEM LIKE MUCH,**

**BUT**

**HEARING IT EVERY DAY FROM FRIENDS,  
CLASSMATES AND EVEN CELEBRITIES TAKES  
ITS TOLL, ESPECIALLY ON YOUNG PEOPLE  
WHO ARE JUST STARTING TO REALISE THAT  
THEY MIGHT BE GAY OR BISEXUAL.**



**SOMEONE CASUALLY, THOUGHTLESSLY  
SAYING 'THAT'S SO GAY' PROBABLY DOESN'T  
WANT TO HURT SOMEONE'S FEELINGS  
LIKE THAT. BUT THAT'S  
WHAT  
HAPPENS.**



**LET'S DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!**

**WE KNOW THAT MOST PEOPLE WHO  
COME OUT WITH STUFF LIKE 'THAT'S SO GAY'  
DON'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT.**

**SO  
HOW**

**DO WE LET THEM KNOW THEY SHOULDN'T DO IT?**

**WE CAN START BY EXPLAINING IT TO THEM.**

**AND THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.**

**IF WE ALL CHALLENGE ANYONE WHO COMES  
OUT WITH HOMOPHOBIC LANGUAGE  
IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO**

**GET IT OUT**

**OF OUR CLASSROOMS.**



**SO, WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?**

**FIRST OF ALL  
DON'T DO  
ANYTHING  
THAT MAKES  
YOU FEEL  
UNCOMFORTABLE**

**BUT IF YOU DO WANT TO CHALLENGE  
HOMOPHOBIC LANGUAGE, DON'T FEEL YOU  
HAVE TO MAKE A BIG DEAL ABOUT IT.  
SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS**

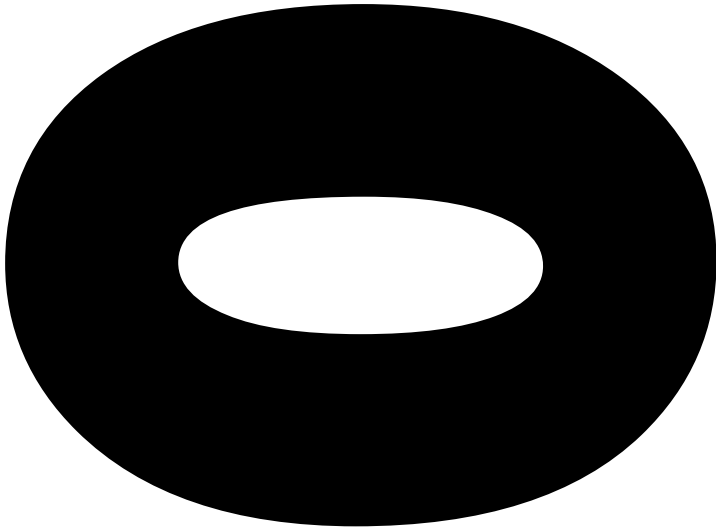
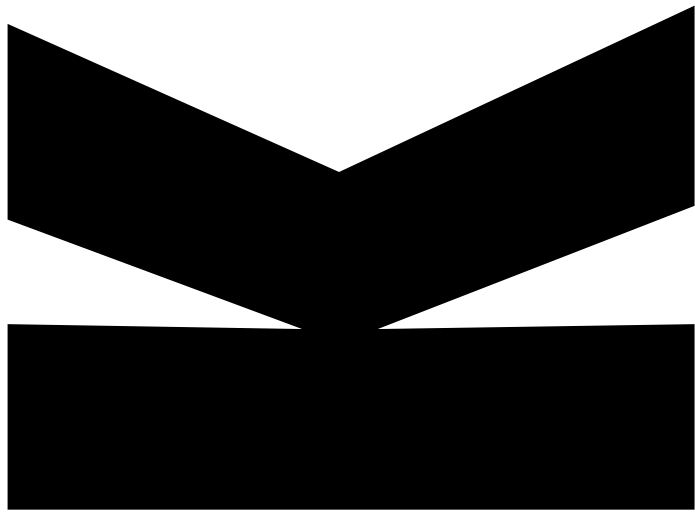


**YOU DO REALISE THAT'S HOMOPHOBIC, DON'T YOU?**



**SHOULD DO THE TRICK.**





**SO SOMEONE MIGHT  
TURN AROUND AND SAY  
THEY DIDN'T MEAN IT  
LIKE THAT OR TELL YOU  
NOT TO BE SO SERIOUS.  
BUT THIS GIVES YOU THE  
PERFECT OPPORTUNITY  
TO EXPLAIN THAT,  
WHETHER THEY MEANT TO  
BE HOMOPHOBIC OR  
NOT, IT MAKES GAY  
PEOPLE FEEL LIKE THEY'RE  
RUBBISH. OF COURSE,  
YOU DON'T HAVE TO  
USE THESE EXACT  
WORDS, BUT THAT'S  
THE MESSAGE YOU WANT  
TO GET ACROSS.**

**YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE A FIGHT ABOUT IT**

**A GENTLE REMINDER AND EXPLANATION SHOULD DO IT. THESE DAYS THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GO AROUND SOUNDING LIKE A HOMOPHOBE. IF THEY DO WANT TO GO AROUND SOUNDING LIKE A HOMOPHOBE, WELL, THAT'S A WHOLE OTHER PROBLEM.**

**WHAT IF THEY DON'T GET THE  
MESSAGE FIRST TIME?**



**ONCE YOU'VE CHALLENGED  
THE FIRST TIME, IT'S MUCH**

**HOMOPHOBIC LANGUAGE  
EASIER TO DO IT IN FUTURE.**

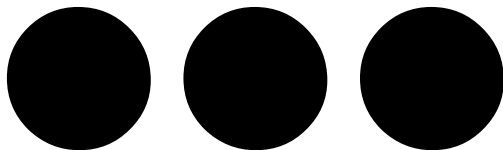
**YOU DON'T WANT TO BE BORING**

**AND ONCE YOU'VE EXPLAINED IT**

**THEY EITHER GET IT OR THEY DON'T.**

**SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS  
ROLLING YOUR EYES**

**WILL HELP TO REMIND THEM THAT YOU  
DON'T FIND IT FUNNY**



**OR INTERESTING**

**AND REMEMBERING THAT THE EXPRESSION  
STARTED YEARS AGO, YOU CAN REMIND  
PEOPLE THAT IT'S THE OLDEST, TIREDEST**

**\* YAWNS \*  
THING.**

**LIKE,**

**WHAT YEAR  
IS THIS  
ANYWAY**

**?**



**WHAT ELSE CAN I DO IN SCHOOL?**



**WE KNOW THAT IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO CHALLENGE PEOPLE WHEN THEY USE 'GAY' THE WRONG WAY, ESPECIALLY WHEN LOADS OF PEOPLE ARE DOING IT. THAT'S WHY WE'VE PRODUCED A SERIES OF POSTERS THAT YOU CAN PUT UP AROUND SCHOOL TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS AND HELP PEOPLE 'GET OVER IT'.**

**'THAT'S SO GAY.'**  
**LET'S BE HONEST, IT'S PROBABLY NOT.**

**Gay. Let's get over it.**

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**GAY.**  
**LET'S GET THE**  
**MEANING STRAIGHT.**

**Gay. Let's get over it.**

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**'YOUR SO GAY.'**

**CAN YOU SPOT TWO COMMON MISTAKES?**

**Gay. Let's get over it.**

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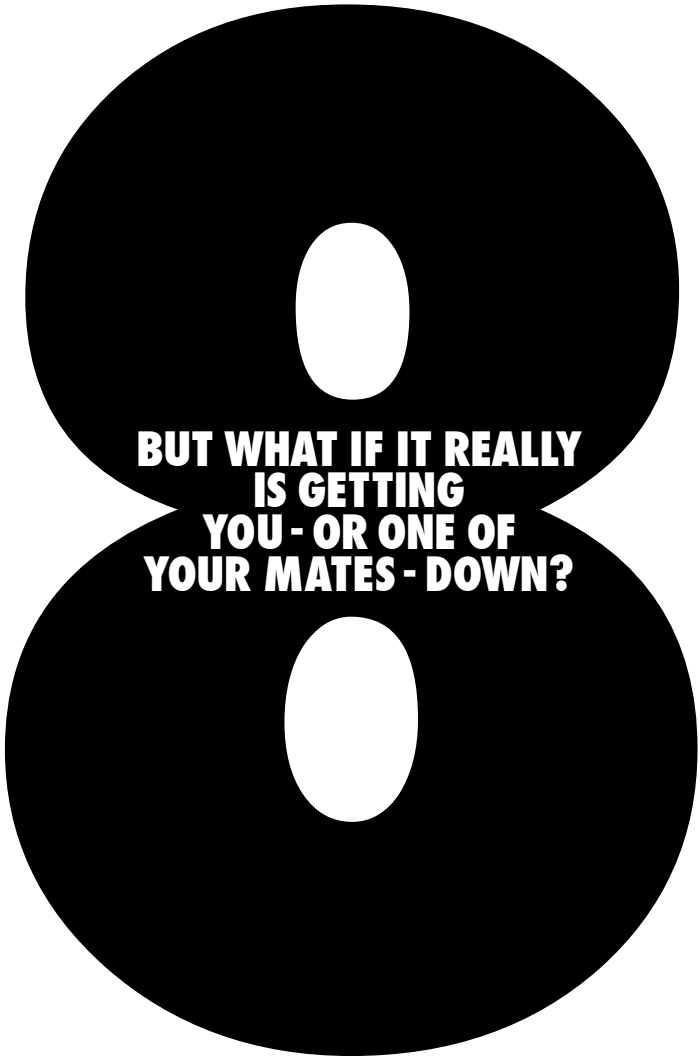


**PUTTING THEM UP WILL QUICKLY GET YOUR MATES TALKING AND HOPEFULLY GET THEM TO THINK ABOUT THEIR WORDS TOO.**

**PLEASE**

**MAKE SURE YOU ASK A TEACHER FIRST.**

**THE LAST THING WE WANT IS YOU GETTING INTO TROUBLE FOR TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING!**

A large, bold, black number 8 is centered on the right side of the image. The number has two white oval-shaped cutouts, one in the upper loop and one in the lower loop. Inside the upper loop, the text "BUT WHAT IF IT REALLY IS GETTING YOU - OR ONE OF YOUR MATES - DOWN?" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters. The text is arranged in four lines: "BUT WHAT IF IT REALLY" on the first line, "IS GETTING" on the second line, "YOU - OR ONE OF" on the third line, and "YOUR MATES - DOWN?" on the fourth line. The background is plain white.

**BUT WHAT IF IT REALLY  
IS GETTING  
YOU - OR ONE OF  
YOUR MATES - DOWN?**

**AS MUCH AS WE'D LIKE YOU TO HELP US STOP PEOPLE USING**

**'GAY'**

**THE WRONG WAY**

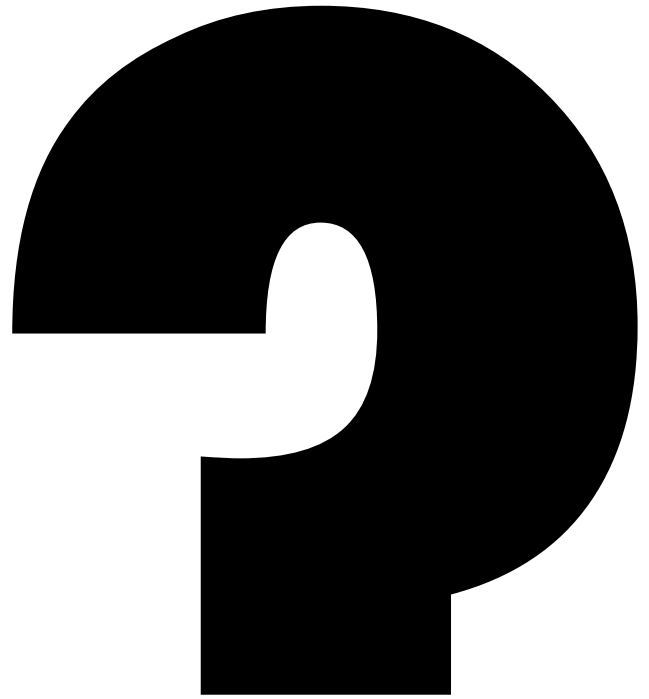
**ULTIMATELY IT'S YOUR SCHOOL'S JOB TO DO IT. IF YOU KEEP ON HEARING HOMOPHOBIC LANGUAGE OR IT'S GETTING YOU OR A FRIEND DOWN, THEN LET A TEACHER KNOW. THEY'VE GOT A RESPONSIBILITY TO TACKLE IT.**



**WE KNOW THAT SOMETIMES, WHEN  
HOMOPHOBIC LANGUAGE ISN'T CHALLENGED,  
IT CAN TURN INTO MORE SERIOUS  
BULLYING, WHICH IS WHY SCHOOLS AND  
TEACHERS NEED TO**

**STEP IN.**

**STONEWALL'S SCHOOL  
CHAMPIONS  
PROGRAMME GIVES  
TEACHERS THE  
TRAINING AND  
SUPPORT THAT THEY  
NEED TO BE ABLE TO  
TACKLE HOMOPHOBIC  
BULLYING AND  
LANGUAGE, SO IF  
YOUR SCHOOL'S NOT  
A MEMBER  
ALREADY, WHY NOT  
SUGGEST THEY...**



A large, bold, black number '9' is centered on the right side of the image. Inside the circular top part of the '9', the text 'AND IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP...' is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in two lines: 'AND IF YOU REALLY WANT TO' on the top line and 'HELP...' on the bottom line, positioned to the right of the central hole of the '9'.

**AND IF YOU REALLY WANT TO  
HELP...**

**IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP YOU CAN  
BECOME A STONEWALL YOUTH VOLUNTEER.  
YOU GET TO MEET PEOPLE, DO GOOD  
WORK AND HAVE SOMETHING GREAT ON  
YOUR CV. WE'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE HELP YOU  
NEED TO START YOUR OWN CAMPAIGN  
TO TACKLE HOMOPHOBIC BULLYING IN A FUN  
AND CREATIVE WAY.**

**SO, THERE YOU HAVE IT.**

**WE HOPE YOU AGREE THAT IT'S TIME TO GET OVER 'THAT'S SO GAY' ONCE AND FOR ALL.**

**WE ALSO HOPE YOU'LL HELP US DO IT:  
FROM PULLING YOUR MATES UP  
WHEN THEY SAY IT, THROUGH  
PUTTING UP POSTERS  
IN YOUR SCHOOL, TO  
WORKING WITH STONEWALL,  
TO TAKING OVER THE WORLD.**

**(OK, SO THAT LAST BIT MIGHT TAKE A BIT LONGER).**

# NOW

**HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE MAKING YOUR  
SCHOOL A BETTER PLACE, NOT JUST FOR GAY  
PEOPLE BUT FOR EVERYONE AND  
CHANGING SOCIETY AT THE SAME TIME?**

# NICE

**RIGHT?**

**T**

**LET'S  
GET  
OVER  
IT!**



**FOR FURTHER ADVICE AND INFORMATION YOU CAN VISIT THE YOUNG STONEWALL WEBSITE [WWW.YOUNGSTONEWALL.ORG.UK](http://WWW.YOUNGSTONEWALL.ORG.UK)**





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