Guide to kick starting your safe school.

Here are some ideas to get you started.

Take some simple and proactive steps to ensure that your school is an inclusive and supportive place for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students, school staff and families.

1 Join us.

By joining Safe Schools Coalition Australia, your school makes a commitment to becoming safer and more inclusive for same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students, staff and families.

How you want to achieve positive change is up to you - with our support! Membership, including staff training, resources, consultancy and support are all free. Download and complete a membership form from our website today.

2 Get informed.

Safe Schools Coalition Australia offers a range of resources for both school staff and students. It is important that all staff are confident and capable of intervening to challenge homophobic and transphobic behaviour and understand their role in creating safe and inclusive spaces. We can provide whole of school introductory staff training as well as tailored sessions to meet your school's particular needs.

Find our full range of resources and more information about what we offer on our website. We also have a dedicated YouTube channel and events to get involved with in your local area. Sign up via the website to get email news about what is happening and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

3 Raise awareness.

Tell your school community why you've joined Safe Schools Coalition. Frame and display your membership certificate in a prominent place so that all students, staff and visitors to the school can see it. Put a story in your school newsletter or on your website and make an announcement to staff and students.

Display our posters in corridors and classrooms and make sure there are copies of our booklets and guides readily available through the library, wellbeing teams, and other visible spaces.

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4. Speak up.

Encourage all school staff to make a commitment to challenge all homophobic and transphobic language or behaviour every time they hear or see it.

By consistently challenging language such as 'that's so gay' and 'what a fag/dyke' or 'are you a boy or a girl?' teachers can have an immediate impact on school culture. Being a safe school means that everyone has zero tolerance and actively addresses any homophobic or transphobic language or behaviour.

There is a short video on our website about how to respond to the negative use of the word 'gay' in schools.

5. Plan to teach diversity.

Actively plan to include same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse people, histories and events in your teaching area. Whatever the subject and your experience, there are always new ways you can better integrate diversity through case studies, texts, and other examples. Challenge gender stereotypes and heteronormativity in discussions inside or outside the classroom.

All Of Us is our Health and Physical Education teaching resource mapped to the Australian Curriculum for Years 7 and 8. It utilises short videos and learning activities to introduce students to sexual diversity, gender diversity and intersex topics.

6. Review your policies and procedures.

Find out whether your school's policies and procedures explicitly mention same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students, staff and families. This could include anti-bullying and diversity policies as well as strategic planning.

We can help you make sure that your school policies reflect current federal and state or territory anti-discrimination policies and legislation. The national Safe Schools Hub provides more information and resources. Once your school policies are introduced or updated, be sure to 'launch' them and make sure the whole community knows about any changes.

7. Find out about your school.

It can be really useful to know what students and staff currently experience at your school and their ideas to create change. Are there already student leadership or other groups who would be interested in getting involved? Ask staff for their thoughts in a staff meeting, and start conversations with leadership.

We can provide confidential online survey tools to find out staff and student perceptions and opinions. The results can help you identify what you're already doing well and what your next steps may be. The same survey can be used again later to evaluate the difference you've made!

8. Support student led action.

Student led action is a really effective way to create cultural change at school. If your school already has a 'Stand Out' group, 'Queer-Straight-Alliance' or other gender and sexual diversity club, actively support their efforts! If not, a good place to start may be planning for days of action and celebration such as the annual International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) or Wear It Purple Day. Your Student Council or other student groups may also choose to lead these activities. Mark any special dates on the school calendar and check out our Stand Out booklet for more information.

Further information and support.

The Safe Schools Coalition Australia website has information and resources you can download or order, as well as advice and training opportunities.

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Free support Safe Schools Coalition Australia can provide.

- Facilitating planning discussions.
- Staff professional development.
- Facilitating group student talks.
- Print and online resources.
- Guidance in updating policies.

Safe Schools Coalition Australia can work with you to make your school a safe and inclusive environment for all same sex attracted, gender diverse and intersex students, staff and families.