



## Phobia in Action - script support

This document supports the scripts provided with our 'Phobia in Action' lesson plan. We provide recommended topics of classroom discussion when examining the homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in the script dialogue.

### Script 1 - Biphobia

Alex says:

*"You'll never guess what I've just found out!"*

*"Jess told me what happened but wouldn't tell me who had said it to her at first, but I bugged her for ages until she finally told me."*

Ask the class:

*Was it right for Alex to share this information about Kate and Jess?*

*How might Kate and Jess feel if they found out Alex had shared this information?*

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Sam says:

*"I'm that surprised to be honest, she's always been a bit greedy."*

*"She does this with everything - she can never make her mind up about what she wants and what she's interested in. She can never make her mind up so just tries to have everything!"*

Ask the class:

*Is it correct for Sam to say that bisexual people are greedy?*

*Is it fair to say that people who are indecisive are more likely to be bisexual?*

## Script 2 - Homophobia

Chris says:

*"Hey, I ain't gay or anything, but that's a nice sweater you've got."*

Ask the class:

*Why do you think people say things like "I ain't gay or anything" or 'no homo'?*

*How do you think these comments might make LGBT+ people feel?*

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Andy says:

*"I like the black graphic but I personally wouldn't wear something that's got pink and gold writing on it. It's a bit gay isn't it?"*

Ask the class:

*What do people mean when they say something is "a bit gay"?*

*How do you think the phrase "it's a bit gay" might make LGBT+ people feel?*

### Script 3 - Transphobia

You may find it useful to review our [‘understanding the T in LGBT+’ presentation](#) when discussing this script.

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Ashley says:

*“We were just talking about Richard.”*

Ask the class:

*Why does Ashley call Rowan by the name Richard?*

*Why is it wrong for Ashley to call Rowan by the name Richard?*

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Ashley says:

*“We were just talking about how he’s now taking drugs to try and turn him into a woman or something?”*

Then Billy says:

*“It’s the one we talked about in Biology that makes you grow boobs and stuff. It’s a bit weird, don’t you think? Like if you still have all your ‘stuff’ down there. I mean what are they going to do with that - have you asked him about it?”*

Ask the class:

*What is wrong about Ashley and Billy’s conversation?*

*Why might it be wrong for Ashley and Billy to discuss Rowan’s medical procedures?*

*How might Rowan feel if they overheard this conversation?*

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Ashley says:

*“I just miss the Richard who used to play football with us before everything with him got really complicated.”*

Ask the class:

*Why might it be wrong for Ashley to talk about Rowan’s past, before they transitioned?*

*How might Rowan feel if they overheard Ashley say this?*

## **Script 4 - Homophobia**

Frankie says:

*“Well, my dad told me that in the Bible it says that being gay is an abomination.”*

Ask the class:

*How do you think James would feel if he was told that something he can't change about himself is abominable?*

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Frankie says:

*“Honestly I think if James chooses to lead that kind of lifestyle then he should be forced to get some kind of help, like therapy or something.”*

Ask the class:

*Do you think it's fair to describe being gay as a “lifestyle choice”?*

*What is wrong with suggesting that gay people should be forced to receive therapy?*

## Script 5 - Biphobia

Reece says:

*“Well all gay guys first say they’re bi before they admit they’re gay because they think people will judge them less if they like girls too. Being ‘bi’ is so fashionable nowadays that everyone wants to jump on the bandwagon.”*

Ask the class:

*Is it correct to say that all bisexual people are secretly gay?*

*How might a bisexual person feel if they were told that their sexuality was “fashionable” or “a bandwagon”?*

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Reece says:

*“Yeah it’s what happened with my mate, he told me that he was bi first because he thought that if he still kissed girls and also talked about girls and stuff, then people wouldn’t mind if he also fancied guys.”*

Ask the class:

*Do you think using one person to inform your view of a whole group of people is sensible?*

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Reece says:

*“Trust me Robyn, Toby here will be telling you he’s gay in no time, won’t you Toby? (laughing)”*

Ask the class:

*Do you think it is fair for Reece to speak to Toby in this way?*

*How might Reece speaking to Toby in this way might make Toby feel?*

## Script 6 - Transphobia

You may find it useful to review our [‘understanding the T in LGBT+’ presentation](#) when discussing this script.

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Jade says:

*“There was a man who was dressed like a woman and was wearing make-up in the women’s toilets.”*

Ask the class:

*Is it accurate for Jade to describe the person they saw in the toilets as a man who was dressed like a woman?*

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Jade says:

*“Please don’t get started on that trans stuff again. Of course it was a man - there were parts of him that didn’t look like a woman! I was looking at him for ages and was close to telling him to leave.”*

Ask the class:

*How might it have felt for the person Jade saw to have Jade stare at them “for ages”?*

*Would it have been right or legal for Jade to tell the person to leave the bathroom?*

*N.B. under the Equality Act 2010, it would be unlawful for a transgender person to be forced to leave a public restroom that matches their gender identity.*

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Jade says:

*“I don’t care - if someone looks like a man then they are a man. Fair enough if you get surgery and everything and blend in with women, but it makes me really uncomfortable to have a man using women’s toilets, even if they are a tranny.”*

Ask the class:

*If someone looks like a man, does it mean they are a man?*

*Is the word “tranny” an acceptable word to describe transgender people?*

## Script 7

Chris says:

*“Gay people are always rubbish at sports. Also, I’m not going to lie, it makes me a bit uncomfortable that he’s on our team. I bet he fancies all of us, and I feel awkward getting changed with him - what if he’s looking at all of us when we’re getting changed?”*

Ask the class:

*Is it accurate to say that gay people are always rubbish at sports?*

*Is it likely that Jack fancies all three of the people in the scene? Would it matter if he did?*

*Is Chris justified in feeling uncomfortable that he has to be on the same team as, and share the same changing rooms as, a gay person?*

## Script 8 - Biphobia

Eli says:

*“Well, if I was with Frankie, she’d be interested in me for a little while, and then probably leave me or cheat on me with someone of a different gender when they get bored.”*

Ask the class:

*Do you think bisexual people are more likely to get bored of their partners than heterosexual or gay people?*

*How might Frankie feel if she heard Eli saying this?*



## Script 9 - Transphobia

You may find it useful to review our [‘understanding the T in LGBT+’ presentation](#) when discussing this script.

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Max says:

*“Yeah, I think it’s really exciting that you’re trans - I didn’t have any trans friends before, and I think you’ll look just like a real girl when you transition.”*

*“I’m sure loads of guys will think you’re good looking even though you’re trans.”*

Ask the class:

*Do you think Alex would feel flattered to be told by Max that they are excited to have a trans friend? Why might this be difficult for Alex to hear? N.B. it might be useful to have a discussion about tokenism here, and how this may make LGBT+ feel.*

*Do you think Alex would feel flattered to be told by Max that she will look like a “real girl eventually” and that “loads of guys will think you’re good looking even though you’re trans”? Why might these statements be difficult for Alex to hear?*

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Max says:

*“Alex seriously, if you just wore a bit more make-up you’d already look like a girl and no one would even notice that you’re actually a boy.”*

Ask the class:

*Do you think it is helpful for Max to give these ‘compliments’ to Alex?*

*Is Max right to say that Alex is “actually a boy”? Points to consider here:*

- *Gender identity should be used as the means by which we identify someone as a ‘boy’ or a ‘girl’, rather than using someone’s biological characteristics. Ashley notes that Alex has ‘felt this way for a very long time’, suggesting that Alex has identified as a girl for a significant period of her life. This is important.*
- *If one of your students suggests that Alex is actually a boy due to her biological sex, reiterate the point above, and also state that we don’t actually know which biological characteristics Alex has. Max assumes that Alex has characteristics that fall on the male side of the biological sex spectrum, but Alex could be intersex, or may have begun medical transitioning procedures. See our [‘understanding the T in LGBT+’ presentation](#) for more information on this. Biological sex cannot always be ascertained just by looking at someone.*