



# The importance of LGBTQ+ youth groups

Matthew Arnold School



## Atmosphere within schools

- Still within the school community people use words such as 'gay' or 'fag' as an insult
- Many schools do not have adequate networks to provide support for LGBTQ+ students
- Being LGBTQ+ can often be isolating, especially if you are not out. To have a student group allows these people to know they are not alone, and that there are other people just like them.

## Safe spaces

- It has been found that LGBTQ+ students are amongst those who feel most unsafe at school
- To have a safe space is very important as it can provide structure and support
- If students feel they have a good support network within the school, it can help them feel safer. A student may not even have to attend the group, but they still know it is there if they need it.

## Awareness

- The most important thing we can do is raise awareness for LGBTQ+ issues within school
- Even if a person does not attend the group, they will still be aware of it
- The group can work to make changes within school
- The group is also a place for straight people to show their support and educate themselves on LGBTQ+ issues
- Finally, a group will spread awareness to the teaching staff that this is an issue that the school is committed to.