

Fighting homophobia, opening schools towards diversity

A new pedagogical dossier, conceived in Belgium on the initiative of Marie ARENA, Minister-President of the French speaking Community of Belgium. This handbook has been distributed in November 2006 in all French speaking Belgian primary and secondary schools to the attention of the teaching staffs and support teams. It is also available on the official website of the French speaking Education Department. The PDF can be downloaded.

This textbook proposes a presentation of the problematic of homophobia in schools and draws ways and strategies to fight against it: a set of pedagogical activities which aim to contribute to the development of a school climate open towards diversity.

Complementary points of view are considered:

- How to tackle the sufferance of kids who perceive themselves as different?**
- How to open oneself towards diversity and accept it as enrichment?**
- How to implement the recent evolution of the Belgian legal system (laws on marriage, adoption, anti-discrimination laws)?**

The dossier is made of four parts:

- 1. The first part develops the objectives of the handbook: why, when, how to speak about homosexuality and homophobia?**
- 2. The second part aims to enhance one's knowledge about sexual orientations, history of homosexuality and the effects of homophobia on young people.**
- 3. The third part provides 24 activities to be carried out in the classrooms. They are adapted to different age categories, from the beginning of the primary school to the end of the secondary school.**
- 4. In the fourth part the teachers and support teams will find a bibliography and a list of web links about sexual orientation, fight against homophobia and further pedagogical links.**

Link to the handbook:

- temporarily on the first web page of the teaching system: <http://www.enseignement.be/> (see Combattre l'homophobie in Actualités)**
- on the long term, it is already available in our on line pedagogical resources service:
<http://www.enseignement.be/@librairie/documents/respel/doc/HomoPhobie-04.pdf>**

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