

Calling out is a new project written with the practical and financial support of Leicestershire County Council Anti-Bullying Team, addressing bullying, gender stereotypes and homophobia.

Calling Out describes the experiences of a child who has moved to a new school with his family. He becomes aware that as he has two mums, his family is different from the families of some of his classmates and when homophobic language is used by some of his friends, he feels upset, and begins to be teased for his sensitivity. Unable to process his feelings on his own, he develops a diminished sense of self-worth and both his emotional well-being and performance suffer at school. After his own coping and resolution strategies prove unsuccessful, he is encouraged to enlist the support of a teacher who gives his support, addresses the discriminatory behaviour and language and promotes a more positive and inclusive environment at school for all the students.

All Gripping Yarns work exploits the capacity of storytelling and drama to enhance empathetic awareness. Children at Key Stage Two will initially understand the story to be about name-calling and exclusion, but the audience will be encouraged to see that the bullying in the story has a homophobic character.

This project has been written specifically to link with existing Stonewall School Champions Programme objectives and materials promoted nationally. Calling Out addresses preconceptions and prejudices associated with non-conventional family structures, challenges the casual and deliberate use of the word gay in the playground, questions gender stereotypes, and promotes positive, supportive learning environments.

Each performance consists of a telling to ideally two but up to three classes followed by a brief discussion of the story, drawing out key themes. The performance will last between 45 minutes and one hour, and will take place in the school hall. Post performance discussion will be tailored to the interests and abilities of the group. The performance is supported by teacher's notes with background information on the story and detailed suggestions for follow up activities.

Calling Out is suitable for Key Stage Two children (years three to six). Each performance will last approximately 45 minutes to one hour. Calling Out is designed to be effective with ideally two but up to a maximum of three classes. (60 - 90 children.)

Gripping Yarns is an association of storytellers operating throughout the UK, delivering stories on PSHE themes, or with other focused educational objectives, to primary and secondary schools.



Gripping Yarns performers are actors with an expertise in theatre for young people, but experience of working in film, television, touring and West End theatre, which they bring to their work in schools.

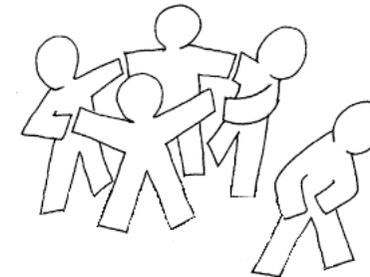
All Gripping Yarns projects are carefully researched to provide detailed analysis of complex subject areas and are scripted and staged to maximise their impact and the clear understanding of core messages. Performances explore issues, guiding empathetic as well as intellectual understanding, and provide a clear frame of reference for post performance discussion

Gripping Yarns aims to always supply value for money by providing self-subsistent work of high quality, capable of supporting sustained follow up activities. Projects have been developed in a association with county education advisors and consistently subjected to evaluation to ensure their effectiveness.

8 Crawley End
Chrishall
Royston SG8 8QL
01763 838447

e-mail queries: simon@grippingyarns.co.uk

Calling Out



Key Stage Two
Storytelling Project
on Homophobic Bullying

