Safeguarding News

What is LGBTQ?

LGBTQ is the more commonly used term in the community; possibly because it is more user friendly! You may also hear the terms "Queer Community" or "Rainbow Community" used to describe LGBTQ+ people. This initialism and the various terms are always evolving so don't try to memorize the list. The most important thing is to be respectful and use the terms that people prefer.
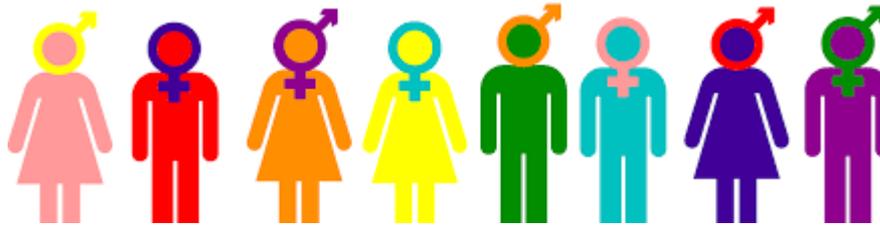
LGBTQ is an initialism that means:

L Lesbian **G** Gay **B** Bisexual **T** Transgender **Q** Queer or Questioning

People often use LGBTQ to mean all of the communities included in the "LGBTTTQQIAA":

Lesbian
Gay
Bisexual
Transgender   + Pansexual
Transsexual   + Agender
Two-spirited   + Gender Queer
Queer   + Bigender
Questioning   + Gender Variant
Intersex   + Pangende
Asexual
Ally

Definitions

Word:	Definition:
Lesbian	**A** lesbian is a female homosexual: a female who experiences romantic love or sexual attraction to other females.
Gay	**Gay** is a term that primarily refers to a homosexual person or the trait of being homosexual. Gay is often used to describe homosexual males but lesbians may also be referred to as gay.
Bisexual	**Bisexuality** is romantic attraction, sexual attraction or sexual behavior toward both males and females, or romantic or sexual attraction to people of any sex or gender identity; this latter aspect is sometimes termed pansexuality.
Transgender	**Transgender** is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth. It is sometimes abbreviated to trans.
Transsexual	**experience** a gender identity inconsistent or not culturally associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.

Word	Definition
Two-Spirited	**Two-Spirited** is a modern umbrella term used by some indigenous North Americans to describe gender-variant individuals in their communities, specifically people within indigenous communities who are seen as having both male and female spirits within them.
Queer	**Queer** is an umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities that are not heterosexual or cisgender. Queer was originally used pejoratively against those with same-sex desires but, beginning in the late-1980s, queer scholars and activists began to reclaim the word.
Questioning	**The** questioning of one's gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation, or all three is a process of exploration by people who may be unsure, still exploring, and concerned about applying a social label to themselves for various reasons.
Intersex	**Intersex** is a variation in sex characteristics including chromosomes, gonads, or genitals that do not allow an individual to be distinctly identified as male or female.
Asexual	**Asexuality** (or no sexuality) is the lack of sexual attraction to anyone, or low or absent interest in sexual activity. It may be considered the lack of a sexual orientation, or one of the variations thereof, alongside heterosexuality, homosexuality, and bisexuality.
Ally	**An Ally is a person who considers** themselves a friend to the LGBTQ+ community.
Pansexual	**Pansexuality,** or omnisexuality, is sexual attraction, romantic love, or emotional attraction toward people of any sex or gender identity. Pansexual people may refer to themselves as gender-blind, asserting that gender and sex are insignificant or irrelevant in determining whether they will be sexually attracted to others.
Agender	**Agender** people, also called genderless, gender free, non-gendered, or ungendered people are those who identify as having no gender or being without any gender identity. This category includes a very broad range of identities which do not conform to traditional gender norms.
Gender Queer	**Gender** Queer is an umbrella term for gender identities that are not exclusively masculine or feminine—identities which are thus outside of the gender binary and cisnormativity.
Bigender	**Bigender** is a gender identity where the person moves between feminine and masculine gender identities and behaviours, possibly depending on context. Some bigender individuals express two distinct "female" and "male" personas, feminine and masculine respectively; others find that they identify as two genders simultaneously.

If you have concerns about a young person that you know or want more information on these topics please speak to a member of your safeguarding team