

Stockwell Park High School

Monday 9th July 2012

School Champion in anti-homophobic bullying

Stockwell Park High School is an active anti-bullying school and now it is a School Champion in anti-homophobic bullying. This work is in partnership with Stonewall, a charity that runs educational programmes to tackle homophobic bullying.

Recent research has found that over half of lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils in Britain's secondary schools experience homophobic bullying.

Homophobic bullying is a problem that affects not only young gay people, but young heterosexual people too. This term, all staff and students were able to learn in depth on Stonewall's programme about homophobic bullying and how this can be tackled.

After the programme our pupils, Gisela Fernandes and Zara Ahmed in Year 8, gave their views on homophobic bullying and the school's anti-bullying programme:

"The programme has given us an insight into homophobic bullying and how to address it. Homophobia is when someone has an irrational fear of homosexual people and homophobic bullying can include verbal, physical or emotional abuse or intimidation directed at someone who is gay or thought to be gay.

"At Stockwell Park High School we do not tolerate homophobic bullying. Anyone reported to doing so face severe consequences. To motivate children to act on homophobic bullying we, as a school, have special programmes in place which we are proud of. For example, we have the ABC (Anti-Bullying Committee) community which is available for anyone who needs any help or support in terms of bullying; Mrs. Boothe who is there to give any advice on bullying matters; and lastly training workshops which inform people about homophobic bullying.



**Gisela Fernandes, Year 8
(Anti-Bullying Committee member)**



Zara Ahmed, Year 8 (Anti-Bullying Committee member)

“In training sessions children gain background information on homophobic bullying and what impact it has on today’s society. They also learn about what effect homophobic language has on the victim. In addition, we get to share our views and opinions in terms of homosexuality.

“The workshops helped us by giving us an insight into what it feels like to be bullied. It also taught us how to act upon certain situations. Overall, we thought it was a very good educational programme, which will help us in our everyday lives.”