



SOMEONE IN MY CLASS IS GAY OR LESBIAN...WHAT CAN I DO?

A COMPLIMENT

- If someone tells you such an important secret it means they **really respect you**, and trust you not to gossip about them.

FEELINGS

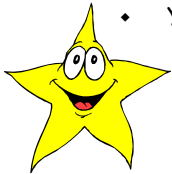
- **Your friend has probably been scared** and trying to find the courage to tell you.
- **You may feel upset and confused** if you have heard bad things about people who are gay.
- This can be hard for you, but is normal.

Give yourself time.

LISTEN AND SUPPORT

- **Listening quietly is the best thing you can do.**
- **Keep it confidential**
- **Ask questions that will help you to understand**, but remember that your friend is probably feeling vulnerable too.

THE SAME PERSON AS BEFORE



- Your friend is still the same person you liked before you knew they were gay. **You just know them better now.**

WORRIES

- **You can't 'catch' being gay from someone.**
- Some people worry when their same sex friend 'comes out' to them, that they are 'coming on' to them. **More likely, they need ordinary friendship and support.**

RESPECT AND FRIENDSHIP

- **What can you do if you hear others talking without respect about someone who is different?**
- **Stand strong.** These ideas usually come from ignorance and fear.
- **You don't have to join in** and spread ideas that harm families and are not true.
- **Keep on being friends.** Enjoy the ordinary things you always did. It will probably be a special friendship for both of you.

HELP NEEDED?

If your friend is getting picked on or seems to be getting depressed, you could encourage them to ring **Youthline** or **Gayline**. For more information and contacts check the back of this page.



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