

What should teachers teach?

Part One

Who should decide what is taught in schools?

The teachers?

The students?

A panel of experts?

The government?

Parents?

Another group?

Why do you think so? Should any of these groups NOT be allowed involvement in the decision?

Part Two

Read about the British Law "Section 28"

Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 was a controversial amendment to the United Kingdom's Local Government Act 1986, enacted on 24 May 1988 and repealed on 21 June 2000 in Scotland, and on 18 November 2003 in the rest of the UK by section 122 of the Local Government Act 2003. The amendment stated that a local authority "shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality" or "promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship".

Some people believed that Section 28 prohibited local councils from distributing any material, whether plays, leaflets, books, etc, that portrayed gay relationships as anything other than abnormal. Teachers and educational staff in some cases were afraid of discussing gay issues with students for fear of losing state funding.

Because it did not create a criminal offence, no prosecution was ever brought under this provision, but its existence caused many groups to close or limit their activities or self-censor. For example, a number of lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual student support groups in schools and colleges across Britain were closed due to fears by council legal staff that they could breach the Act.

(Section 28 - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia <http://bit.ly/812nmW>)

Which of the following statements are closest to the ideas expressed by section 28?

1. Homosexuality is abnormal.
2. Only a man and a woman can make a family.
3. Homosexuality is a lifestyle choice.
4. Many people are born gay.
5. It is natural to be gay.
6. It's none of my business what people do in their own homes.
7. ?

Do you agree with any of these statements?

Part Four

You are a head teacher. One of the parents at your school complains because she thinks her child's teacher might be gay. Make notes, then act out the conversation with a partner.