



Norwich Pride Schools' Week Presents..

LGBTQ+ Teachers Meet Up

Featuring: Professor Catherine Lee

*"Pretended: Living with and
Challenging Homophobia in Schools"*

**Monday 27 June
from 19:00**

**Amnesty Bookshop
St Benedicts Street
Norwich**

**booking required:
education@norwichpride.org.uk**



Pretended: Living with and Challenging Homophobia in Schools

Between 1988 and 2003, Section 28 of the Local Government Act prohibited teachers in UK schools from 'promoting homosexuality as a pretended family relationship'. Section 28 left LGBTQ+ teachers fearing they would lose their jobs if their identity was revealed in the school workplace.

Drawing on her own experience as a teacher during that era, Catherine Lee will explore the way in which Section 28 required her and countless other LGBTQ+ teachers, to separate their personal and professional identities in the school workplace. She will also show that almost twenty years after its repeal, Section 28 maintains a damaging legacy that continues to impact some LGBTQ+ teachers today.

Catherine will also discuss how she helped establish Courageous Leaders, the UK's first leadership development programme specifically for LGBTQ+ teachers. At a time when the average length of service for a Headteacher in the UK is just three years, Courageous Leaders is an important vehicle for improving the diversity of teacher leaders, and facilitating school cultures which enable LGBTQ+ teachers to be their authentic selves and flourish within the profession.

Finally, Catherine will examine some of the behaviours that LGBTQ+ teachers practise over time and suggest that these behaviours equip LGBTQ+ teachers with skills and attributes which are important to school leadership.



Professor Catherine Lee

Catherine Lee is a PE teacher and SENCO by background, teaching both in inner city Liverpool and rural Suffolk. She is currently Deputy Dean for Education in the Faculty of Health, Education, Medicine and Social Care at Anglia Ruskin University, a National Teaching Fellow and Professor of Inclusive Education and Leadership. Catherine has published extensively on the theme of LGBTQ+ teachers in schools and her research has created national and international impact.

In 2016, drawing on her research and funded by the DfE, Catherine worked with schools in the region to set up Courageous Leaders, the UK's only leadership development programme specifically for LGBTQ+ teachers. The programme has worked with over 100 teachers to date and has been nominated for numerous national diversity awards. In 2019, Catherine was recognised for her research-led work on Courageous Leaders, by being included in the UK's Pride Power List as one of the top 100 most influential LGBT people in the UK.