

"That's So Gay!"

1

Do you agree with the way in which Waseem reacted to his friend Jules' penalty miss? Why?

"What was that supposed to be, mate?" came a friendly voice from behind him.



What would you say to a friend if the same or similar thing happened to them? What would you want someone to say, if it happened to you?

"That's So Gay!"

2

Why do you think the children might have reacted in the way that they did about the plans for after lunch?

"Great work this morning, guys. When you come in after lunch, you will need to grab your aprons and sit in your art places."

A 'yessssss' hissed around the room at the mention of artwork.



What are the advantages and disadvantages of sitting with your friends in class?

"That's So Gay!"

3

Why do you think Zara was upset when the children were talking and laughing about their artwork?

Everybody continued to laugh and appraise each others' drawings, but Jules noticed Zara's face fall. He watched with curiosity as she turned back to her work and slumped in her chair.



What positive comments could you make about someone's (or your own) piece of work?

"That's So Gay!"

4

What do you think had been said or done just before hometime to cause the unusual reaction from Mr Tucker?

Normally, at hometime, Mr Tucker would walk out to the yard with the class and would try to speak to everyone before they went home. He would often ask if they were doing anything fun that evening, or he would ask if they had enjoyed the day, but today, he did something that seemed totally out of character: he silently turned away from the class and headed over to his marking pile.

Have you ever been in a situation where you have felt offended or upset by something that was said but you didn't want to or feel able to say anything?

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5

What do you think about Jules' description of his teacher and headteacher's throwing?

"Not like Mr Edwards, earlier," laughed Jules. "His throws were all so gay – he was way off every time! But you are really good, Mr Tucker."



Can you think of any other words that are commonly used which have changed with time or may have multiple meanings?

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6

Why do you think Mr Tucker or his husband were upset by the way the children used the word 'gay'?

"I don't just mean Jules," said Mr Tucker. "I have heard 'gay' used like this a few times now, around school. It can be very upsetting for some people to hear the word 'gay' used to mean 'rubbish', 'bad' or 'stupid'."



*'You should never say the word 'gay'.'*

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?

"That's So Gay!"

7

What ideas did the children have to educate others around school about their use of the word 'gay'?  
What else could be done?

"Loads of kids use it around school," he said, "so I think that we need to try to make everyone stop."



Is it ever OK to use the word 'gay' in school?

"That's So Gay!"

8

What did you think of Jules' reaction to Zara's throwing?  
How did he change the way that he spoke?

"Not bad," Jules chuckled. "You can always try again next year!"



How might you say something differently in the future  
after thinking about the power of words?  
Remember that it's OK to learn from your mistakes!