

## UNDERSTANDING SOGI-INCLUSIVE RESOURCES: A GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

### What are SOGI-Inclusive Resources?

SOGI-inclusive resources are one of many tools used by teachers in our school district to foster understanding and acceptance of every member of our community, regardless of race, culture, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity.

These resources are created and supported by the [BC Ministry of Education and Child Care](#). These resources are used by all school districts across BC and aim to reduce bullying and discrimination.

### Key points about SOGI-inclusive resources:

- **They are an essential component of inclusive education**  
SOGI-inclusive resources equip teachers with the tools needed to provide factual information, foster empathy and help students understand and respect the diversity of our community and the importance of using inclusive language.
- **They foster respect and empathy**  
SOGI-inclusive resources address topics like diverse identities, family/caregiver diversity, stereotypes, bullying and name-calling.
- **They are age-appropriate**  
All students learn about topics such as respect, compassion and diversity, while more complex topics such as discrimination and injustice are explored in a developmentally and age-appropriate manner.
- **They provide support for 2SLGBTQIA+ students**  
SOGI-inclusive resources provide support, a sense of belonging and affirmation for 2SLGBTQIA+ students who may otherwise feel isolated or marginalized. They help create an environment where all students can thrive.
- **They benefit all students**  
Studies show that having inclusive classrooms and SOGI-specific anti-bullying policies improve the school climate, reducing discrimination, depression, anxiety, substance use, suicidal ideation and suicide attempts for all students.

## Our Commitment

We are committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for every student, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. SOGI-inclusive resources are one of many tools we use to achieve this goal.

Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) are protected under the [BC Human Rights Code](#), the [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#) and provincial legislation. VSB is committed to ensuring that every classroom in our District is welcoming, and all students feel safe and supported. Our commitment extends to fully supporting teachers and schools as they integrate age-appropriate references to diversity in sexual orientation and gender identity. This approach fosters dignity and respect while working toward a reduction in incidents of violence and discrimination against students and community members who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+.

Together, we can create a more understanding, inclusive and accepting community.