

# LGBT+ books

A great selection of books, chosen by the INTO LGBT+ Teachers' Group, will add to the inclusion and positive representation of LGBT+ identities in a gentle, age-appropriate way.



Stories are magical. They can act as mirrors to pupils, reflecting their own experiences back to them as valid. They can act as windows, allowing pupils to see into other people's lives, and as doors, letting pupils step into the shoes of others and experience their perspective for themselves. Minority groups are much less likely to have their experiences reflected in mainstream textbooks, and so, as teachers we must incorporate additional texts to supplement our classroom books to make sure that our classrooms are welcoming for all pupils – where pupils learn about all types

of people as we prepare them to be members of a richly diverse Irish society.

### 1st and 2nd class

*Alien Nation by Matty Donaldson*

This beautifully illustrated storybook is a fantastic introduction to ideas around gender, gender expression, gender roles and different gender identities. Imagine a planet where people can be who they want to be – welcome to Alien Nation.



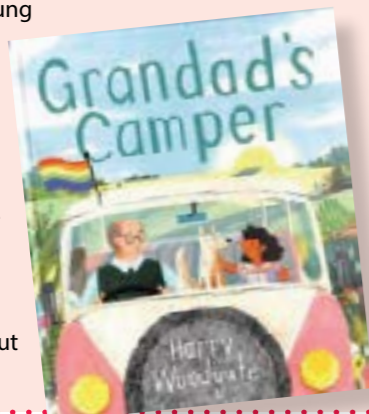
Through the fictional Planet Girl and Planet Boy, Matty Donaldson highlights how restrictive gender rules can limit us all and celebrates the freedom and joy of allowing people to be who they are.

A really useful feature is discussion questions sprinkled throughout that can help to guide the conversation as the story unfolds. Alien Nation is available through The Proud Trust website: [www.theproudstust.org/](http://www.theproudstust.org/).

### Junior/senior infants

*Grandad's Camper by Harry Woodgate*

This poignant book from non-binary author and illustrator Harry Woodgate is a beautiful tale related from the perspective of a young grandchild who goes to visit her grandad every summer. She loves exploring Grandad's house and Garden but her favourite thing to do is to cuddle up with grandad as he tells her stories about all the adventures

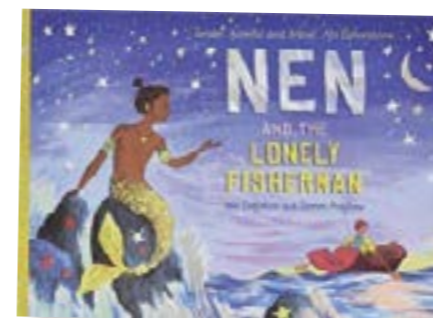


that he and gramps used to get up to together. Since Gramps died, however, Grandad doesn't feel like going exploring any more. His granddaughter has an idea to cheer Grandad up and to bring back his love for adventure.



*The Pirate Mums by Jodie Lancet-Grant and Lydia Corry*

This book is a great example of where an LGBT+ headed family can be incidental to, rather than the point of, the story with a resounding focus on celebrating difference as what makes us all special. Billy's family is not what you'd call ordinary. His mums don't listen to 'normal' music. They love to sing sea shanties and dance jigs in the lounge. Their clothes are highly unusual, they have a rude parrot for a pet, and their taste in house design is, well 'fishy!' Billy wishes his family could be more like everyone else's. Until a swashbuckling adventure changes everything!



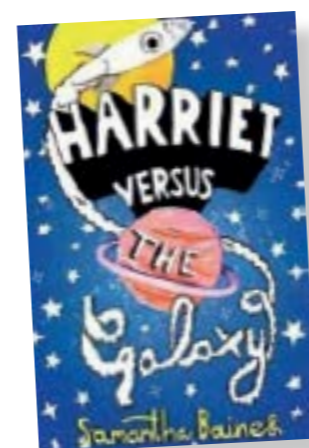
*Nen and the Lonely Fisherman by Ian Eagleton and James Mayhew*

A modern adaptation of a classic 'little mermaid' tale, this book tells the story of a merman's search for true love, sending a song of hope across the sea while a lonely, caring young fisherman named Ernest hopes to find warmth in his heart. As the two meet, they feel a special connection, much to the dismay of Nen's father Pelagios who creates a wild sea storm to keep the two apart. Can Nen save Ernest? This breathtakingly illustrated paperback book showcases a story of love in adversity, which serves as a reminder to us all to care for people and the planet.

### 3rd and 4th class

*Harriet Versus the Galaxy by Samantha Baines*

This intergalactic adventure starts at home with Harriet, who discovers that her hearing-aid can do more than she ever bargained for when she finds an alien in her room. Discovering that her family secretly work for an intergalactic agency, Harriet becomes the Earth's first line of defence as the only one who can understand the invaders. Along the way, she makes friends with gender fluid Robin and learns a lot about herself in the process. This book is a great addition to any classroom but would be especially useful as positive representation of hearing-aid users as well as gender non-conforming pupils.



*Kenny lives with Erica and Martina by Olly Pike*

An homage to one of the first LGBT+ inclusive children's books ever published (Jenny lives with Eric and Martin), this

### 5th and 6th class

*Cameron Battle and the Hidden Kingdoms by Jamar J Perry*

Cameron Battle grew up reading The Book of Chidani, cherishing stories about the fabled kingdom that cut itself off from the world to save the Igbo people from danger. Passed down over generations, the book is Cameron's only connection to his parents who disappeared one fateful night two years ago. When he and his best friends, Zion and Aliyah, decide to open it again, they are magically transported to Chidani. Instead of a land of beauty and wonder, they find a kingdom in extreme danger as the Queen's sister seeks to destroy the barrier between worlds. The people of



Chidani have been waiting for the last descendant to return and save them. Is Cameron ready to be the hero they need? This book, by black queer author Jamar J Perry, would be a fantastic addition to any classroom where pupils may have connection to Igbo or wider Nigerian cultures.

*What Does LGBT+ Mean by Ollie Pike with Mel Lane and James Canning*

This non-fiction book is a valuable resource for any senior classroom. It gives comprehensive but accessible explanations for concepts such as identity, assigned sex, gender, sexual orientation, privilege, discrimination, allyship, pride and more. The result of extensive consultation with teachers, students and a wide range of LGBT+ people, the book also functions as a simple explainer for anyone of any age who might be unsure about some elements of LGBT+ terminology. As with many PopnOLly publications, videos to accompany the book can be found via: [youtube.com/popnolly](https://youtube.com/popnolly).



book tells the story of Kenny whose grey world becomes a lot more colourful with the arrival of some new neighbours.

Kenny and his mums welcome the change, but this can't be said for everyone who lives on their street. Kenny has to somehow let everyone know that being different is not something to be afraid of. A unique feature of this story is that there isn't necessarily a 'happy



ending' – by the time the community is ready to welcome them, the neighbours have already left and Kenny is comforted by his mothers that he has at least made a positive change to his community for the future. A great conversation starter on diversity, equality and acceptance.

### INTO LGBT+ TEACHERS' GROUP

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Don't forget you can also view our book selections for the last three years online in the March/April 2019-2021 editions of InTouch via [bit.ly/3qkDp48](https://bit.ly/3qkDp48)

