It's Not Okay to Say:
"That's so gay!"

Stop It:
With a simple, quick response such as, "It's not OK to say 'That's so gay.'" or, "You may not have meant to be unkind, but when you use the word 'gay' to mean something is bad or stupid, it is hurtful."

Explain and Educate:
Be clear with students that when they use the word "gay" in a negative way, they are being disrespectful. Explain that using the phrase "That's so gay" is hurtful to other students who may have parents, siblings, friends or other family members who are gay.

Don't Ignore It:
Ignoring hurtful remarks and teasing can allow it to continue and possibly get worse. If other students do not see you take action, they will get the message that there is nothing wrong with it and carry on.

Don't Excuse the Behaviour:
Saying "Sam doesn't really know what it means," or "Mina was only joking," excuses hurtful behaviour. Students need to be held to account for their language and actions.

Don't Try to Judge How Upset the Target Is:
We have no way of knowing how a student is really feeling. Often, targets are embarrassed and pretend that they were not offended or hurt. Saying "Hamsa didn't seem upset by Nic's remark" trivialises the child's feelings. It tells the harasser that it is OK to make hurtful comments. It teaches not only the child targeted but also anyone in hearing range that they will not be protected from harassment.

Stop it – Explain it – Don't ignore it

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