School Script for Tackling Sexist or Homophobic Language

We have been working on a school script to tackle sexist or homophobic language. For example the phrase "that's so gay" "you're such a girl". If you hear a child using language in this way it important that it is consistently challenged, with all staff using the same approach.

Steps to follow;

1. Question what the child meant;
   "What did you say?"
   "What did you mean by that?"
   "Do you know what that word means?"
   "Were you using the term gay/ girl in a positive or negative way?"

2. Explain what the word they have used means in an age appropriate way
   For example – that's so gay **Gay -** The word gay refers to someone who falls in love with, or wants to have a relationship or partnership with, people who are the same gender as them. For example, a man who loves another man or a woman who loves another woman, this includes two dads or two mums.

   Give the child an example positive/ neutral way to use the term as compared to the negative insulting way.

3. Link to our school values
   Belonging Believing; together succeeding – we believe that everyone has the right to feel they belong here.

4. How do you think someone who was or had a family member who was gay/ girls feel if they heard you using the term gay as an insult? Would that help them to feel that they belong/ are accepted?

   All homophobic incidents in school must be logged. If you have to deal with an incident of homophobic language please tell Gill/ Andrea.