

Starter: The long road to equality

Timeline of Post-War UK Legislation relating to LGBTQ+

📄 1957 – The Wolfenden Report

- ◆ Recommended **decriminalising homosexuality**, arguing that **private acts between consenting adults** should not be illegal.

📄 1967 – The Sexual Offences Act

- ◆ **Partially decriminalised** same-sex relationships between men **over 21 years old**, but only in **private**.

📄 1980 – Scotland Decriminalises Homosexuality

- ◆ Scotland **follows England and Wales**, **legalising** same-sex relationships.

📄 1981 – Northern Ireland Decriminalises Homosexuality

- ◆ Northern Ireland **adopts similar legal changes**, finally extending rights across the UK.

🚫 1988 – Section 28 Introduced

- ◆ **Banned** the *“promotion of homosexuality”* in schools, reinforcing **discrimination**.

🛡️ 2000 – Armed Forces Ban Lifted

- ◆ LGBTQ+ individuals are **allowed to serve openly** in the **British military**.

✓ 2003 – Section 28 Repealed

- ◆ The discriminatory law is **removed**, allowing **LGBTQ+ issues** to be discussed in schools.

👫 2004 – Civil Partnerships Act

- ◆ Grants **same-sex couples** legal recognition **similar to marriage**.

⚖️ 2010 – Equality Act

- ◆ Strengthens **protections** against discrimination based on **sexual orientation** and **gender identity**.

🏠 2013 – Same-Sex Marriage Legalised

- ◆ The *Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act* allows **same-sex couples to marry** in England and Wales.

🏛️ 2017 – Turing’s Law

- ◆ **Posthumous pardons** granted to men convicted under **historical anti-LGBTQ+ laws**.

📚 2020 – LGBTQ+ Inclusive Education

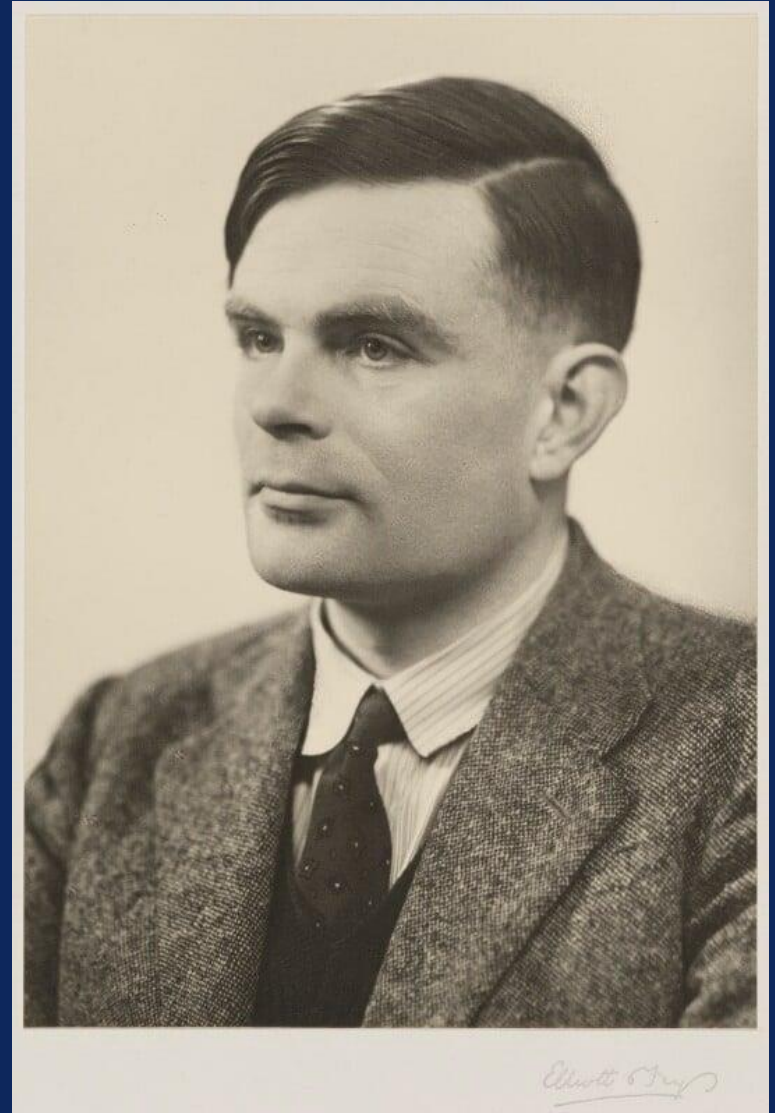
- ◆ **Schools required** to teach about **LGBTQ+ relationships** as part of the curriculum.





Enquiry Question:
**Who was Alan Turing
and why should we
care?**

Lesson Title:
Legal and social changes in
Britain that affected LGBTQ+



Activity: Legal & social changes affecting LGBTQ+

This is a straightforward task designed to help you acquire the knowledge that you will need later to help understand how social changes can influence the law, and the effects that this can have on different groups of people.

- You have been given a set of cards, each with a sentence relating to a particular change in the law affecting LGBTQ+ people.
- Arrange the sentences into the correct order (there is only one!) and then copy them into your book or on paper. To make the task a little more difficult, not all the sentences have a date!

Legal and Social Changes Affecting LGBTQ+ People

1. In the 1950s, being gay was illegal in the UK, and men could be arrested, imprisoned, or forced to undergo harmful medical treatments just because of their sexuality.
2. The Wolfenden Report argued that private relationships between consenting adults should not be criminal, laying the groundwork for change.
3. In 1967, the UK passed the Sexual Offences Act, making same-sex relationships legal, but only in private and only for men over 21 years old.
4. LGBTQ+ activists continued fighting for rights, protesting against discrimination and laws like Section 28, which banned schools from discussing homosexuality.
5. Music, fashion, and sport helped change attitudes—artists like David Bowie, footballers like Justin Fashanu, and movements like Pride marches made LGBTQ+ identities more visible.
6. The Rainbow Laces Campaign (2013) encouraged acceptance in football and other sports, challenging homophobia on and off the pitch.
7. In 2013, same-sex marriage was legalised in England and Wales, showing society's shift toward greater equality and inclusion.
8. Turing's Law pardoned thousands of men convicted under old anti-gay laws, recognising the injustice they suffered.

Activity: Legal & social changes affecting LGBTQ+

- There are four A3 Information sheets: Life, Protest, Music and Sport.
- Each group has **one** A3 Information Sheet and the relevant worksheet. You also have worksheets for the Information Sheets you **do** not have.
- Your group has **ten minutes** to complete the worksheet for the Information Sheet you have been given.
- When the time is up, **one delegate** from each group takes their completed worksheet to each of the other three groups in turn, sharing the information so that each group can complete all the worksheets.

Summary: Change and its effects

1. Legal changes regarding homosexuality

- What are some examples of the legal changes regarding LGBTQ+?
- How important was each of these changes?
- Was the direction of travel always forward, towards equality?

2. Changes in culture and attitudes

- What are some examples of cultural changes and how did these help to change attitudes towards LGBTQ+?
- Does any one change or event stand out as being particularly important?

3. How do you think these changes affected the public's knowledge of, and attitude towards, Alan Turing? Remember to **support** your opinions.