

Excerpt from Evangelical Fellowship of Canada’s Report on Reasons for Bullying at School

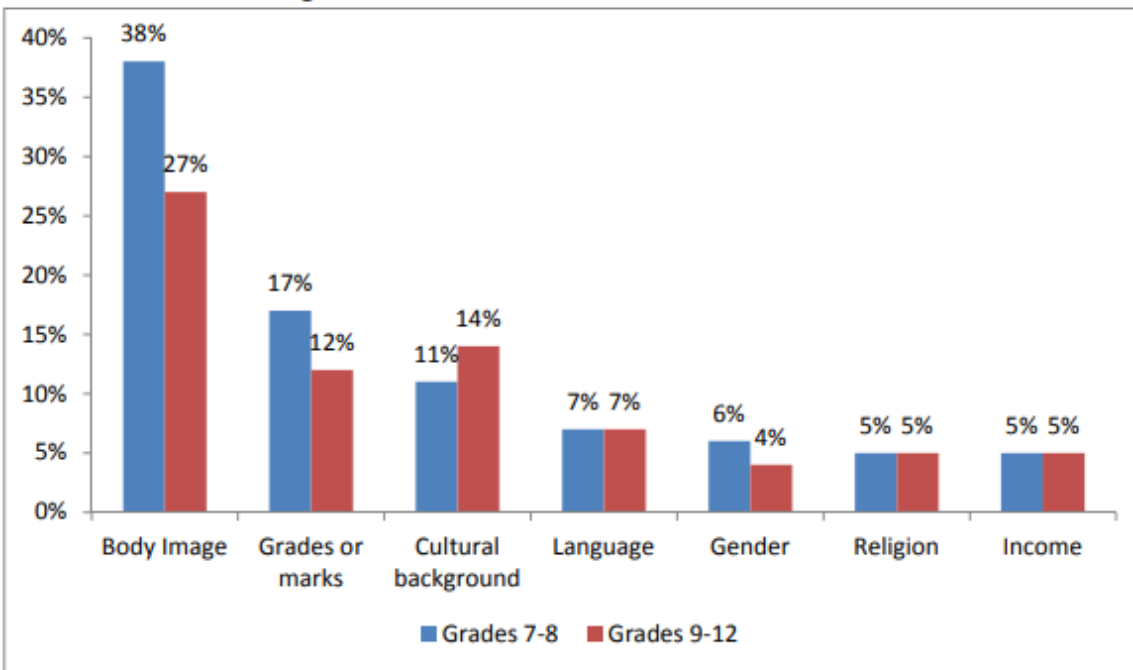
The EFC cites an independent study commissioned by the Toronto District School Board in 2006 which found that that same-sex attraction was not even in the top 6 reasons why students get bullied at school. From page 19 of the EFC report:

C. Risk Factors for Bullying

Based on current research, there are a number of factors which increase a student’s risk of being bullied. Appearance, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, grades, and socioeconomic status are all commonly identified reasons for which students are bullied. While some have asserted that the primary reason for bullying may be a child’s gender identity or sexual orientation, the data demonstrates that bullying behaviours target a number of distinctive factors among children. Researchers for the 2007 Survey of Canadian Attitudes toward Learning say, “SCAL data, along with a large and growing body of research, suggest that children from all walks of life can be victims of bullying, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic background.”⁷¹

According to the “Toronto District School Board Research Report,” which surveyed approximately 105,000 students in the Toronto area, the most common type of bullying was bullying based on body image.⁷² The second most common reason for bullying, and perhaps surprisingly for some, is not gender, sexual orientation or race, but grades or marks.⁷³

Chart 6. Reasons for being bullied



Source: Maria Yau and Janet O’Reilly, “2006 Student Census, Grades 7-12.”

⁷¹ Canadian Council of Learning, “2007 Survey of Canadian Attitudes toward Learning,” 30.

⁷² Maria Yau and Janet O’Reilly, “2006 Student Census, Grades 7-12: System Overview,” Toronto District School Board Research Report, http://www.tdsb.on.ca/wwwdocuments/about_us/external_research_application/docs/2006StudentCensusSystemOverview1.pdf, 21.

⁷³ Ibid.