



**just like us**  
THE LGBT+ YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHARITY

# School Diversity Week

2023 guide

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## Welcome to School Diversity Week 2023

**School Diversity Week is a vital opportunity to bring together your school community and celebrate difference.** *LGBT+ pupils today are twice as likely to be bullied, face daily tension at home and endure disproportionate challenges to their wellbeing – school must be the place where they can be themselves.*

*More than 5,000 primary and secondary schools – thousands more teachers alongside millions of young people – across the UK are now taking part. **This year we are delighted to launch many more LGBT+ inclusive lesson plans, posters, assemblies and videos** including new resources specifically designed to support faith schools, SEND and, for the first time, resources in Welsh.*

*No young person should feel afraid of going to school because of who they are, or the make-up of their family. Let's make this year's School Diversity Week the biggest-ever celebration of LGBT+ inclusion across the UK.*

*Thank you all for making sure that your pupils can learn in an environment that counteracts the shame and hatred that LGBT+ young people so often face in the wider world. **We know it has been a challenging year in schools so we cannot thank you enough for continuing to ensure your students can thrive as their authentic selves.***

*And thank you to our corporate sponsors – including our headline sponsor JPMorgan Chase – for supporting the charity and enabling us to provide free resources to schools.*

*Happy School Diversity Week 2023!*

### **Amy Ashenden**

Interim Chief Executive of Just Like Us,  
the LGBT+ young people's charity





## Getting started

We've created this toolkit to make celebrating School Diversity Week as easy as possible. This guide includes:

- Information about what's new this year
- A reminder about our range of existing resources
- Easy ideas for school-wide events celebrating LGBT+ equality
- Stories from schools who have celebrated School Diversity Week
- FAQs to help explain and support your week

Each year we aim to act on your feedback, so **this year we have resources supporting faith schools, SEND schools and CPD webinars**, as well as more of the resources teachers love.

For primary schools, we have new assemblies, activities for circle time, more lessons for curriculum subjects, activity packs full of creative ideas and more.

For secondary school settings, we have even more assembly and form time resources alongside our extensive range of cross-curricular resources.

**All new resources will be live on our portal by 17 April 2023.**

All of our story time resources for primary schools are still available on the portal, as well as all of our masterclasses from previous years which you can find on [our YouTube channel](#).

We know that positive messaging about being LGBT+ is linked to better mental health for pupils, regardless of whether they are LGBT+ or not. **Celebrating School Diversity Week is a brilliant way to support your entire school community.**



### How can you celebrate div

- How can **you** individually respect and ce
- How can **your class** celebrate different ki
- How can **your school** celebrate different



### Monica's thoughts on wh different

Monica is an ambassador for Just Like Us. She is **Catholic** and she has a **synagogue**. Think about what Monica says about being what being Catholic means to her.





"My school started doing School Diversity Week when I was in year 11...it was the first time I saw and heard positive messages about being LGBT+ around my school and it gave me the final bit of confidence I needed for me to wholeheartedly believe that one day I could just be me. I felt seen."

*Beckett, Just Like Us ambassador*

"My school had very little LGBT+ visibility prior to School Diversity Week. The week has acted as a much needed catalyst to promote the welfare of LGBT+ pupils and give staff the confidence to tackle anti-LGBT+ bullying and discrimination. I feel YGS now has a better understanding of the difficulties faced by LGBT+ pupils and what we as a school can do to support them and foster a whole school environment in which difference is not only accepted but celebrated."

*Kay, teacher at Ysgol Greenhill*





## Primary schools

School Diversity Week will look different in every primary school. We know that for many primary schools, this is the beginning of your LGBT+ inclusion journey and we want to support you wherever you are on that journey.

### ***Celebrating inside the classroom***

We have lots of resources to support your work in the classroom. Remember, whatever you do, however small, will support your students.

**If you only have 20 minutes:** Have LGBT+ inclusive circle time using our circle time prompt cards or watch one of our LGBT+ inclusive storytime videos

**If you have an hour:** Teach one of our LGBT+ inclusive curriculum lessons, for example KS1 poetry, KS2 History and many more...

**If you have an afternoon:** Use our activity pack to complete a series of LGBT+ inclusive activities, including crafts, a wordsearch and a crossword

### ***Celebrating outside the classroom***

School Diversity can be a whole-school celebration! Below are lots of ideas on how to get your whole school involved:

- Download our free poster packs and display these around your school
- Create a colourful School Diversity Week display using our display resources
- Run one of our LGBT+ inclusive assemblies, including assemblies based around faith and LGBT+
- Host your own mini Pride parade with positive messages about LGBT+ families and being kind (use our KS2 resource to get students involved in planning!)
- Dress up for Rainbow Friday on 30 June
- Run a Rainbow Ribbons fundraiser (suggested donation of £1 to Just Like Us per ribbon) or another fundraising event, such as a bake sale
- Fill your library and English units with LGBT+ inclusive books by using our primary reading list (also in our resources portal)

We'd love to hear about what you get up to! Email your questions, feedback and photos to [info@justlikeus.org](mailto:info@justlikeus.org).



*"We feel so supported by Just Like Us with all the resources and the ideas of how we can run Diversity Week each year. We now have a DEI group that works across all of our 14 schools to really embed School Diversity Week."*

*Heather Denny, teacher at Norwich Primary Academy*

*"I've been heartened and encouraged by the way our students have responded to School Diversity Week. In all year groups, students have engaged thoughtfully and respectfully in discussion and work around LGBT+ issues. Schools must take part in this – the world is changing at such a pace and our students need to know that we are part of the journey towards greater equality and acceptance of diversity."*

*Phil, teacher at Park Hall Academy*





## Secondary schools

In secondary schools, School Diversity Week is all about putting LGBT+ voices at the heart of what you do, by building on what you have covered in PSHE and RSE.

We've listened to staff, who have asked for additional resources to support SEND students, with assemblies, form times and PSHE lessons aimed at students with additional needs. We've also created a series of resources about being LGBT+ and of faith for you to support the diversity of your school community.

Building on last year's success, we have even more assemblies and form times to kick start discussions about LGBT+ identities and experiences, alongside new PSHE and PE lessons.

All our resources are designed to work at whatever level your school is engaging with School Diversity week.

In the portal, there are:

- 8 standalone form time sessions that could run throughout the week
- A range of assemblies covering LGBT+ topics
- Key stage-specific PSHE lessons
- Curriculum resources for across all subjects and key stages
- Display materials and posters to create inclusive spaces for pupils

**If you only have 20 minutes:** Use one of our form time activities to introduce LGBT+ terminology with your pupils, or run an assembly exploring what being a good ally can look like

**If you have an hour:** Review our portal of curriculum resources, such as one of our lessons on growing up as an LGBT+ person of faith, to bring LGBT+ stories into your subject lessons

**If you want to go further:** Explore how your whole school could engage by running a series of form times or assemblies and lessons across all subjects, along with new display materials and ideas for fundraising and activities to celebrate LGBT+ inclusion at your school during Pride month



## Fundraising

Fundraising and events are a great way to get the whole school community involved in LGBT+ inclusion during School Diversity Week (and beyond).

By running a fundraiser for Just Like Us this School Diversity Week, you can:

- Help us stop anti-LGBT+ bullying
- Help us champion LGBT+ inclusivity and equality in schools nation-wide
- Celebrate your own LGBT+ students and allies
- Help our programmes to reach even more young people across the UK

**Fundraisers are a fantastic visible symbol of Pride and allyship for the LGBT+ community**, and a brilliant way to support LGBT+ young people and engage pupils across year groups in School Diversity Week.

We're incredibly grateful for all of your support, both in fundraising and in delivering LGBT+ inclusive education within your school.

*"Aylesbury High School raised £118.25 for Just Like Us by selling rainbow ribbons during their School Diversity Week celebrations. Lots of our students and staff still wear their rainbow ribbons on their jackets or lanyards to continue to show how important diversity and inclusion are at our school."*

*Harriet, Aylesbury High School*

*"Students at Bethany's School raised money for Just Like Us by running a cake and donut sale. This student-led initiative was run alongside selling rainbow ribbons. It was emotional, liberating and supported by the whole school."*

*Rhiannon, Bethany's School*

**Run a Rainbow Ribbons fundraiser** (suggested £1 donation per ribbon to Just Like Us), which you can buy on [our online shop](#).

**Dress up in the colours of the rainbow for Rainbow Friday on 30 June.**

You could allocate a colour per year or form so you can make a rainbow or just ask everyone to wear bright colours. Ask pupils to bring a voluntary donation to contribute to your fundraising total!



## ***Details of how to pay***

**You can donate via credit or debit card on [our website](#).** To help us identify your payment, please include your school name and 'School Diversity Week fundraiser' in your donation message. Alternatively, you can **scan the QR code** on this page to make a donation.

### **BACS Transfer**

Please include a reference with your school name and 'School Diversity Week fundraiser'. Our account details are:

**Account Name:** Just Like Us  
**Bank Name:** Barclays  
**Account Number:** 83749509  
**Sort Code:** 20-32-06



### **Cheque**

If you would like to make your donation via cheque, please email [fundraising@justlikus.org](mailto:fundraising@justlikus.org)

## **Share your photos**

Email [info@justlikeus.org](mailto:info@justlikeus.org) or tag [@JustLikeUsUK](#) & [#SchoolDiversityWeek](#)

## **Competition time**

**This year, we are running a competition to reward the efforts of teachers who go above and beyond** to support their LGBT+ pupils and bring LGBT+ inclusion to life in their schools **with five prizes of £100 Amazon vouchers** for the winning entries!

To enter the competition, fill out our short feedback form with your experiences from running School Diversity Week at your school along with pictures of your events and you could be in with a chance to win one of the five prizes.

**We love to see what teachers get up to and to share your hard work** as inspiration for teachers looking to take part in School Diversity Week in the future!





## FAQs

### How do I find the resources?

UK primary and secondary school staff can browse and download our free School Diversity Week resources in our portal – follow these steps:

1. [Sign up for School Diversity Week](#) if you haven't already
2. [Go to the School Diversity Week resources webpage](#) (we recommend bookmarking this!)
3. You can search by keyword (e.g. KS1, maths) in the search bar or have a look through the resource folders
4. Click the three grey dots next to the file name you'd like to download and click 'download'

### How do I get my school community on board?

If you want your whole school community to be involved in celebrating School Diversity Week then getting your school leadership team and colleagues on board is an important first step.

By celebrating School Diversity Week you are making a clear commitment to equality, inclusion and tolerance, all of which are incredibly valuable in education. It may be worth mentioning that Ofsted and ISI now look at what schools are doing to support inclusion and School Diversity Week is an excellent example of your school's commitment to including and celebrating all. Most of all, by celebrating School Diversity Week, you are supporting your entire school community. Our independent research showed that LGBT+ inclusion work is linked to better mental health for all students, so this work is vital to supporting your students.

When it comes to getting your wider school community involved, build on this by emphasising the importance of educating students for a diverse world. School Diversity Week is all about celebrating difference, respect and kindness.

Explore ways you may be able to collaborate across years, pastoral teams and subjects to see if you can get assemblies timetabled, time in the school day for fundraising or lessons tweaked ahead of the week itself.

**Have another question?** Email us at [info@justlikeus.org](mailto:info@justlikeus.org) so we can help.



## Beyond School Diversity Week

Celebrating School Diversity Week is just the beginning of LGBT+ inclusion as LGBT+ inclusion should be embedded in your school throughout the year. We encourage you to explore how you might be able to integrate LGBT+ lives and stories within daily practice – from switching case studies to reflect different people, to tweaking units of work to explore a wider range of viewpoints.

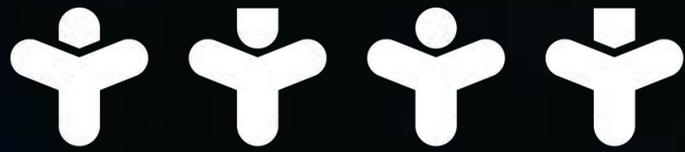
### For secondary schools

- **Think about [setting up an LGBT+ group](#)** to create a safe space for your LGBT+ students and their allies to find support, learn and make change
- **[Book a school talk](#) by some of our relatable LGBT+ 18-25 year old ambassadors.** They share their experiences growing up LGBT+
- **Consider reviewing how LGBT+ topics and stories are embedded** in teaching across subjects and throughout the year outside of School Diversity Week

### For primary schools

- **Take a look at our reading lists** and think about incorporating LGBT+ texts into your English units throughout the year
- **Think about how you talk about and celebrate different kinds of families** across the school
- **Take a look at your school policies**, for example your anti-bullying policy and make sure that they are LGBT+ inclusive





**just like us**  
THE LGBT+ YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHARITY

**School  
Diversity  
Week**  
**26-30 June**



**@JustLikeUsUK**



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