



just like us
THE LGBT+ YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHARITY

School Diversity Week

2024 guide



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Welcome to School Diversity Week 2024

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

More than 6,800 primary and secondary schools across the UK are now taking part. This year, millions of young people will benefit from new resources celebrating diverse families for primary schools, video resources with LGBT+ authors, and a range of new curriculum-specific resources for KS3, 4 and 5. And, of course, assemblies and posters galore!

No young person should feel afraid of going to school because of who they are. No young person should face discrimination because their family dynamic is different. School Diversity Week this year is set to be the most impressive celebration of LGBT+ inclusion across the UK.

Thank you for making sure that your pupils have a safe and supportive environment in which to learn, one 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 for schools and we cannot thank you enough for continuing to ensure your students can thrive.**

And thank you to our corporate sponsors – including our headline sponsor JPMorgan Chase and our Primary School Champion, iCandy – for supporting the charity and enabling us to provide free resources to thousands of schools.

Happy School Diversity Week 2024!

Laura Mackay

CEO 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 new and existing resources
- Easy ideas for school-wide events celebrating LGBT+ equality
- Rainbow Friday and fundraising ideas
- Examples from schools who have celebrated School Diversity Week
- FAQs, including how to find and download our free resources

Each year we act on the feedback you give us. This year, new resources include video content for primary schools that focus on hearing from LGBT+ families and children's authors like Harry Woodgate. For secondary schools, new resources include celebrating LGBT+ British South Asian culture, embedding LGBT+ context within GCSE English poetry lessons, and KS5 LGBT+ History and Politics resources.

Check out what is available on our [resource portal](#).

We know that positive messaging about being LGBT+ is linked to better mental health for pupils, regardless of whether they are LGBT+ or not ([Growing up LGBT+, 2021](#)). But it even extends beyond their school life and into adulthood. Our independent research has found that LGBT+ young people who grow up in unsupportive schools and homes are four times more likely to feel ashamed of who they are in adulthood ([Positive futures, 2023](#)). School is about setting your students up for success.

Celebrating School Diversity Week is a brilliant way to support all of your pupils and getting support and engagement from parents, carers and the local community to show your school's commitment to LGBT+ inclusive education.



How can you celebrate di

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



Monica's thoughts on w different

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





"If my school had committed to signing up for School Diversity Week it would've sent a powerful and much-needed message to the whole school community. It would've made an unimaginable difference."

Rhys, Just Like Us ambassador

"There are 1.5+ million LGBTQ+ people in the UK - School Diversity Week encourages students to embrace diversity and be more inclusive and tolerant of differences in not just identity, but all of the Protected Characteristics. Intersectionality needs to be discussed, and young people educated, if we want to ensure all young people feel fully safe and included in our communities."

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 brand video resources this year to help showcase LGBT+ families and highlight that being LGBT+ is nothing to be ashamed of. Remember, whatever you do, however small, will support your students who may have LGBT+ families or one day grow up to be LGBT+.

If you only have 20 minutes: Have LGBT+ inclusive circle time using some of our circle time prompt cards or watch one of our LGBT+ inclusive storytime videos such as *Grandad's Pride* with Harry Woodgate.

If you have an hour: Teach one of our LGBT+ inclusive curriculum lessons, for example KS1 poetry, KS2 History, or explore our resources with advice for making the move to secondary school a success for your pupils.

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

"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*



Celebrating outside the classroom

School Diversity Week can be a whole-school celebration! You could get your whole school involved by:

- Downloading our free poster packs and displaying these around your school
- Creating a colourful School Diversity Week display using our display resources
- Running one of our LGBT+ inclusive assemblies, including assemblies based around faith and LGBT+
- Hosting your own mini Pride parade with positive messages about LGBT+ families and being kind (use our KS2 resource to get students involved in planning!)
- Dressing up for Rainbow Friday on 28 June
- Running a [Rainbow Ribbons fundraiser](#) (suggested donation of £1 to Just Like Us per ribbon) or another fundraising event, such as a bake sale
- Filling your library and English units with LGBT+ inclusive books from our primary reading list (in our resources portal)

We'd love to hear about what you get up to! And for your chance to be entered into our prize draw you can complete our case study form linked [here](#).

Feel free to email your questions, feedback and photos to info@justlikeus.org as well.





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.

Last year, many of you asked for additional resources to support the representation of different LGBT+ cultures and the transition from school to work. So we conducted our [Positive Futures](#) research that looks at the effects of LGBT+ representation in schools on young LGBT+ adults and created a video resource that focuses on British South Asian LGBT+ representation.

We have even more assemblies and form times to kick start discussions about LGBT+ identities and experiences, alongside new PSHE and CPD-accredited webinars.

All of our resources are designed by teachers, for teachers. They work at whatever level your school is engaging with School Diversity Week.

What's in the [portal for 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 including LGBT+ terminology 101, intersectionality, allyship, and the importance of celebrating Pride
- 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 embedding LGBT+ contexts within GCSE English poetry comparison to bring LGBT+ stories to life in 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. Also consider using our new display materials and ideas for fundraising and activities to celebrate LGBT+ inclusion and mark Pride month this June.

"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."

Marie, the headteacher at a College in Hampshire



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 you can raise funds for your [Pride Group](#), whilst also giving the students a fun interactive project to work on and celebrate LGBT+ inclusion all in one! You could even hold a fundraiser for Just Like Us this School Diversity Week, which would allow us to:

- Help us stop anti-LGBT+ bullying and support more young people
- Help us champion LGBT+ inclusivity and equality in schools nation-wide
- Celebrate your own LGBT+ students and allies
- Support and empower LGBT+ young people aged 18-25 to share their stories of growing up LGBT+ in school

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.

"It is a brilliant way to celebrate the diversity in your community, show the students how important kindness is and get staff more comfortable in discussing LGBT+ issues."

Kirsty, a teacher at a Secondary school in North Lanarkshire

"It's a chance to show pupils they aren't alone, that there are those who are supportive of them. Every time I run this event, I get pupils telling me that this means so much to them and that they had no idea so many others were like them or supported them. It's the highlight of their school year."

Kateri, a teacher at a Secondary school in Livingston



Run a Rainbow Ribbons fundraiser

You can buy a pack of 100 Rainbow Ribbons for £15+VAT in [our online shop](#). Order by 14th June to receive your Rainbow Ribbons in time for School Diversity Week. We suggest a donation of £1 donation per ribbon to Just Like Us.

Take part in Rainbow Friday

Dress up in the colours of the rainbow for Rainbow Friday on 28 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** 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

Share your photos

Email 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 [case study 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 and download the resources?

UK primary and secondary school staff can browse and download our free School Diversity Week resources in our portal – follow these 4 simple steps:

1. [Sign in here](#) or [sign up for School Diversity Week](#) if you haven't already
2. [Go to the School Diversity Week resources webpage](#) (we recommend bookmarking this!) and scroll down to 'Browse the resources'
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 leadership team and colleagues on board is an important first step. Encourage all staff at your school to sign up.

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](#) shows that LGBT+ inclusion work is linked to better mental health and wellbeing for all students (even those who are not LGBT+), so this work is vital to supporting all of your students.

When it comes to getting your wider school community involved, build on this by emphasising the importance of preparing 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 so we can help.



Beyond School Diversity Week

Celebrating School Diversity Week is just the beginning 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 primary schools:

- **Take a look at our primary reading list** and think about incorporating LGBT+ texts into your English units throughout the year and refreshing your library.
- **Think about how you celebrate and talk about different kinds of families across the school.** Remember, many children will have same-sex parents and some may have a trans sibling, for example.
- **Take a look at your school policies**, for example your anti-bullying policy, and check they are LGBT+ inclusive.

For secondary schools:

- **[Join our Pride Groups programme](#)** to get access to our CPD-accredited training and access to new fortnightly resources which help the set up and running of lunchtime or after school club for your LGBT+ and ally students.
- **[Book a LGBT+ school talk](#)** by our relatable LGBT+ speakers who are aged 18 to 25-year-old. They share their authentic and powerful experiences growing up LGBT+ which will inspire your pupils to be allies.
- **Consider reviewing how LGBT+ topics and stories are embedded in teaching** across subjects and throughout the year outside of School Diversity Week – use our free subject lesson plans to do this!





just like us
THE LGBT+ YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHARITY

**School
Diversity
Week**
24-28 June



@JustLikeUsUK



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