



School Diversity Week Toolkit



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Introduction

We're absolutely delighted that you're joining the Just Like Us team across the UK in championing lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT+) equality during School Diversity Week 2017.

We've created this toolkit with help from our Teacher Advisory Group to make celebrating School Diversity Week as easy as possible. It includes:

- Easy-to-use ideas for school-wide events celebrating LGBT+ equality
- Advice on empowering your students to set up a Social Action Team
- Primary school lesson plans for core subjects
- Secondary school form period plans and subject specific starters
- Extracurricular resources including facts, book lists, articles, films and videos
- FAQs to help explain the aims of the week
- Letter templates about your school's involvement for parents, staff and governors

This toolkit will help you plan the week to suit your school's needs. We've been inspired to hear about what so many schools already have planned and we're looking forward to hearing from many more of you over the next few weeks. We'd love your feedback on how we can improve this toolkit and make next year's week even more successful.

Thank you for celebrating School Diversity Week and championing LGBT+ equality at your school. LGBT+ young people repeatedly tell us what a difference it would have made if their schools had done more to support them growing up. There will be many students for whom this week will be a turning point, the moment when they see that being LGBT+ won't get in the way of them having an awesome life, that being themselves will help them realise their potential and their dreams.

Good luck and stay in touch!

The Just Like Us team



About us

Just Like Us is the LGBT+ charity for young people, founded for a simple reason: growing up LGBT+ is still one of the most challenging experiences young people can face.

We train LGBT+ university students as relatable role models who visit schools to share their personal stories; tackle homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying; bust stereotypes and champion LGBT+ equality. Our ambassadors have worked directly with more than 15,000 schoolchildren this academic year.

School Diversity Week is our initiative to empower school students and teachers to take ownership of celebrating LGBT+ equality in their own schools and colleges. After the success of School Diversity Week 2016, we have more than 250 schools signed up this year.

What's the problem

Growing up remains unacceptably tough for LGBT+ young people: 96% of them hear homophobic remarks and 60% experience bullying.

These negative experiences have a detrimental impact on their wellbeing and school attainment:

40% contemplate suicide



50% self harm



70% say homophobia affects their school work



44% skip school because of it





“School Diversity Week was an opportunity for students, regardless of their identify, and teachers to get involved in stopping negative attitudes before they can take root, and cause problems.”

–Ben, Sixth Form Student

“Getting involved with School Diversity Week empowered our students to celebrate themselves and each other. It has led to a much more supportive and cohesive student body where all our students feel safe and happy”

–Faheem Khan, Deputy Head

Holding an event

Ideas Bank

Here are some ideas for events that could involve the whole school in celebrating LGBT+ equality. Feel free to come up with others of your own by setting up a Social Action Team (see below). You can also use these to help stimulate further ideas as part of the Social Action Team's brainstorming. Many can easily be turned into fundraising events to support our work tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying.

Dragons Den Fundraising

Challenge pupils to generate ideas for fundraising during School Diversity Week and develop a presentation to pitch to "Teacher Dragons".

Fashion Show

Challenge pupils to make costumes representing diversity and authenticity. Hold a fashion show to celebrate them.

Sporting Event

Organise a sporting event using [rainbow laces](#).

Guest Speaker

Hold a question and answer session about LGBT+ issues with an openly LGBT Pupil, MP, or role model talk.

Post Boxes

Make a post box from a cardboard box and set it up in the canteen. Leave paper and pens out for students and staff to write messages of support for LGBT+ young people.

Pride Walk

Arrange for pupils to walk to school together or hold a march around the school site.

Sticker Making Competition

Task pupils with designing a School Diversity Week sticker to be worn during the week.

Non-Uniform Day

Organise a diversity themed non-uniform day during the week.

Craft

Get a group of students together to make loom-band bracelets to sell to around the school.

Day of Silence

Hold a whole-school silence during lunchtime to mark the silent suffering of many LGBT+ young people.

Make a Rainbow Competition

Challenged pupils to create rainbows with any material during the week, sharing photos on Instagram.

Set up a Social Action Team

The best way to engage your students with School Diversity Week is to support them by setting up a Social Action Team to take the lead on organising an event during the week. It's a great way to kickstart social action projects in your school and help students build valuable skills for UCAS and their CVs.

Step 1: Recruit the Social Action Team

Advertise the opportunity to students and form teachers using our email template and posters. Older year groups, in particular, will benefit from the chance to develop organisational and leadership skills they can use for their CV and UCAS.

Dear students

Passionate about making a difference and building skills for your CV and UCAS? If so, join our Social Action Team to plan and run an event during School Diversity Week supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender peers.

As part of the Social Action Team, you'll be responsible for choosing and planning the event, publicising it around the school, seeking sponsorship and raising awareness about the impact of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying.

You'll also be in with a chance to win a trip to London to an awards ceremony to celebrate your achievements.

If you want to make a difference while building skills to impress universities and employers, come along to **<insert room>** and **<time>** to find out more.

Yours

Step 2: Choose your event(s)

- Explain the aims of the week (see our [FAQ](#) for help)
- Get students to brainstorm ideas for events and use our suggestions in the [Ideas Bank](#)
- Get students to decide on the best event(s) to organise

Step 3: Assign roles and responsibilities

- Explain the leadership roles and responsibilities, for example
 - Team Leader: chair of the group
 - Advertising: responsible for marketing and recruiting for events
 - Logistics: room bookings, event space
- Fundraising: responsible for sponsorship and fundraising events
- Get students to decide on leadership positions.

Step 4: Plan the event

- Help students organise the event timeline
- Encourage them to use the Event Checklist (below) to think about everything you need for the event, such as room space, materials, permissions, sponsorship, advertising
- Assigns actions to specific team members
- Agree time and place for the next meeting

Step 5: Run an awesome event

Event Checklist

To help you make your event a success, we've included a checklist of some of the things you might want to think about. Read through the questions before you start planning and tick them off once you've done them!

Top tips for a successful event

1. Make a note of everything that needs to be done
2. Put tasks in the order they need to be done
3. Set deadlines for when they need to be done
4. Assign responsibility for each item to a member of the team
5. Advertise the event multiple times and in different ways to boost attendance





Identifying your event

- What event are you going to run?
- What are the aims of the event?
For example: particular awareness raising or message?
- What age groups do you want to involve?
- Is the activity age appropriate?
For example: check the certificate of the film
- Will you be able to organise the event in the time available?



Organising the Event

- When will you hold the event?
- Where will you hold the event?
- Do you need to book the event space?



Resources

- Will you be able to raise the money you need in time?
- What materials and resources will you need?
- Is there any budget for the event? If not, could you seek sponsorship or fundraise?
- Where will you get those materials and resources from?
- Will you want food at the event?
- Do you want to have tickets in advance?



Promoting the event

- How will you advertise the event?
- When will you advertise the event?
- Can you involve the art or IT department in raising awareness?



Running the event

- Who will make sure the event space is ready?
- Will you need help setting up audio and video?
- Who will be responsible for welcoming people or collecting tickets?
- Will the event be introduced at all?
- Who will help tidy the event away?



Primary School

Lesson Plans

Combatting Homophobia

Year	2,3,4
Subject	Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic Bullying
Resources	Prince Henry Film Paper Strips with Laws (printable sheet below)
Aim	To understand what homophobia is and speak up when something is wrong

Starter – discussion

- Write “The Law” on the board and in partners discuss:
- What laws or rules do we have in our school?
- Why are laws important? Can laws be changed?

Main – Video ([Prince Henry](#))

Pause after Thomas says “Who knows, maybe in one year or five or ten I will ask you to marry me” What was the story about?

Main – Discussion in pairs

- Who does Prince Henry want to marry?
- Why doesn't the king want Prince Henry to marry Thomas?
Is that fair?
- How does Prince Henry change his father's mind?
- Why doesn't Thomas say yes to Prince Henry?
- What do you think of this ending?

Main – Activity

Introduction

The king changes his mind about the law in his land, and he then makes things fair by ripping up the old laws and writing new ones. Show the children a pile of papers and say these are some laws for our school but they have got mixed up.

Activity

- Place the laws face down in a pile in the middle of a circle
- One at a time, children pick up the top one and read it out
- Discuss each law and ask the children whether to keep it or rip it up
- Rewrite the rules we ripped up so that they fit in our school

Plenary – Read or watch the rest of the story and discuss

- What does “Their love was always equal” mean?
- A few years ago people who were gay were not allowed to get married in the UK but now the law has changed
- Why did the law change?
- Why is it important to allow everyone to get married if they want to?

“The Laws”

Print out these laws to use as part of the main activity:

In our school there must be only one religion

In our school everyone must have the same eye colour

In our school you can be Black, White or Asian

In our school all families must be the same

In our school girls can only be friends with other girls

In our school football is only for boys

In our school we must all look the same

People who are different do not belong in our school

In our school people from other countries are not welcome

Prince Henry and Thomas are welcome in our school

In our school there are no outsiders

Being Yourself

Year	6
Subject	Anne Lister & Code Writing
Resources	Anne Lister Powerpoint and worksheet – email info@justlikeus.org for a copy
Aims	Understand who Anne Lister was and why she was unusual in Victorian Britain Understand why she had to write in code Understand how views towards lesbians have changed

Starter – Discussion

- Show some pictures of stereotypical Victorian women
- Class have to write down as many words to describe them as possible
- Extension: In what ways are modern and Victorian and modern women different?

Main – Learning about Anne Lister

- Show the biography slide on the board
- Class answer worksheet

Main – Cracking the code

- Show the class the code
- Pairs/individuals decipher the code
- Write a message in the code which your partner has to translate

Plenary – Discussion

- Why do you think Anne Lister felt she needed to write in a code?
- How do you think hiding her identity and her relationships made Anne feel?
- If Anne Lister were alive in Britain today, would she still need to write her private diaries in code?

Gender

Year 5/6

Subject Gender

Resources *Are you a boy or are you a girl?*
by Sarah Savage and Fox Fisher
[The Genderbread Person](#)

Aims To recognise when people are prejudging people and understand how it feels

Starter – Gender Stereotypes

- Ask pupils to describe the clothes, look and location of: a police officer, footballer, teacher, doctor, ballet dancer. Use the pronoun they and do not specify a gender
- Ask pupils to read their descriptions and make a note of the pronouns they use
- Ask each child whether they are describing male or female people, as you didn't specify
- Ask why children have chosen to use pronouns to describe each person

Main – What are pronouns?

What is a pronoun? When is it used? Do we always need to use pronouns? Are there times we don't need to use pronouns? Does every story need pronouns? What would a story be like if there were no pronouns?

Main – Read “Are you a boy or are you a girl?”

- Put children in small groups to discuss the following before feeding back to the group:
 - What is the message in the story? Are pronouns used in this story?
 - Are pronouns needed? Describe Tiny
- Look at the page where a boy shouts: “Tiny, what a silly name. I can't tell if it's a boy or a girl” Why doesn't Tiny answer?
- Are we given a gender for Tiny? Does that matter? How has Tiny chosen to live life?

Main – What is transgender?

- Put word Transgender on board – what does this mean?
- Definition: “When a person is born they are assigned a gender. For a transgender person the gender they have been assigned does not match how they feel inside. So someone who is told they are a boy feels like they are a girl, or someone who is told they are a girl, feels like they are a boy”
- What does Tiny feel like? In the story Tiny does not identify as either a boy or a girl.
- We must respect Tiny’s wishes to be referred to neither as a boy or girl because that is how Tiny feels; it is not our job to assign a gender to Tiny!

Plenary – Discussion

- Would Tiny feel welcome at our school?
- What can we do to make our school safe and welcoming for everyone, including Tiny?
- If we make Tiny use the boys or girls toilets are we discriminating against Tiny?
- How can we change to make sure Tiny feels welcome? Is there anything else in our school that only boys or only girls do?

Secondary School

Lesson Plans

Form Period activities

Form periods offer a great opportunity to engage pupils with LGBT+ equality and social action. These short plans are fun ways to empower your pupils to support LGBT+ people in the school.



Being Me

Aim: to think about what makes each person unique

- Give each student a piece of coloured paper and draw an outline of a person
- Inside the person, pupils share something important to their identity
- Pupils share their picture on a display board

Class Code of Conduct

Aim: pupils take ownership of how they behave by creating a class code of conduct

- Divide the class into groups of 3-4 with a sheet of A3 paper
- Each group splits the page into Dos and Don'ts and writes down behaviours in each
- Try to focus them on supporting LGBT+ equality and challenging prejudice
- Feed back to the class with the teacher recording the class values
- Print off and ask each member to sign at the start of the next form period

Decorate your Door

Aim: to create a display of supportive messages for LGBT+ people

- Give the class coloured paper, pens and other materials
- Design and decorate their form room's door with messages and images showing their support for LGBT+ people

Pledges

Aim: pupils understand the importance of diversity

- Print off School Diversity Week Pledge Cards "I ♥ School Diversity Week because..."
- Start with two questions on the board: Why does diversity matter? Why is it important for people to be themselves?
- Ask pupils to share their reasons with the class
- Take photographs of pupils with their reasons and make a display in your form room

Messages of Support

Aim: to encourage pupils to think about how they can support LGBT+ people

- Watch [JLU Ambassador Video](#) and ask the class how they felt hearing about these young people's experiences
- Give each student a piece of A5 paper and ask them to write a letter or message of support to anyone in the school who might be LGBT+
- Share on display boards and with other form tutors

I ♥ School Diversity Week

#SDW17



school diversity week

**Celebrating LGBT+
equality in education**

**www.justlikeus.org
[@JustLikeUs_UK](https://www.instagram.com/JustLikeUs_UK)**

LGBT+ in Lessons

School Diversity Week is a great opportunity to raise awareness about the amazing contribution made by members of the LGBT+ community to society.

There are a number of easy ways to celebrate this:

Lesson Starters

Use a 5-10 minute starter in your subject to provoke discussion about LGBT+ issues in your lesson as part of School Diversity Week. We've provided some suggested materials below that do not require background knowledge or information.

Research project

Get pupils engaged in LGBT+ issues through a research project profiling a famous individual from the LGBT+ community's work in your subject area.

Through an independent project in a computer room lesson, students can learn more about the LGBT+ community and deepen their knowledge about an area of your subject beyond the usual curriculum.

Display Board

Make a display board about LGBT+ people in your subject area, brightening up your corridors and maximising your pupils' exposure to LGBT+ issues.

PSHE

Just Like Us has developed a presentation and lesson plan to explore homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. If you would like a copy of this presentation, just email info@justlikeus.org

You'll find videos in our resource section which can be shown as part of your PSHE lesson, as well as in assembly.

Famous LGBT+ People

Science

Sara Josephine Baker
Judith Butler
John Maynard Keynes
Oliver Sacks
Dan Choi
Angela Clayton
Louise Pearce
Sally Ride
Paul Rosenfels

Sport

Nicola Adams
Clare Balding
Mike Beuttler
Joe Carstairs
Lisa Cross
Tom Daley
Melanie Garside-Wight
Gareth Thomas

Art

Francis Bacon
Cass Bird
Leigh Bowery
Caravaggio
Eiki Mori
David Hockney
Howard Hodgkin

Historical Figures

Emperor Hadrian
Oscar Wilde
Gertrude Bell
Frederick the Great
Lord Byron
Lawrence of Arabia
Eleanor Roosevelt

Music

Franz Schubert
Ethel Smith
Sam Smith
Conchita Wurst
Mary Lambert
Tyler Glen
Frank Ocean

Drama

Tennessee Williams
Ben Whishaw
Ellen Page
Ellen DeGeneres
Jodie Foster
Ian McKellen

Lesson Starters

LGBT+ Rights around the world

Resources Article: [“LGBT+ relationships are illegal in 74 countries around the world”](#)
Article: [“Gay men in Chechnya are being tortured and killed”](#)
Video: [This Is What LGBT Life Is Like Around the World](#)
Infographic: [LGBT rights around the world](#)

- Questions**
- Why might countries differ in their attitudes to LGBT+ rights?
 - How can the UK encourage other countries to do more to protect LGBT+ rights?

Gender Roles

Resources Article: [“Men from across the generations open up about Masculinity”](#)
Image: [The Genderbread Person](#)
Photos: [Girls Will be Bois](#)
Video: [Is anatomy destiny?](#)
Video: [Indian Supreme Court recognises transgender people as third gender](#)
Article with embedded video: [The Gay Guide to Wedded Bliss](#)

- Questions**
- What is the difference between sex and gender?
 - What does it mean to you to be a man/boy or a woman/girl or neither?
 - How does gay marriage challenge traditional gender stereotypes?

History

Resources Article: [Timeline: gay rights in the UK to 2003](#)
Website: [LGBT+ Legal Equality](#)
Video: [Gay Rights: Britain's Changing Attitudes](#)
Video: [Nazi persecution of homosexuals during the holocaust](#)
Video: [Homosexual holocaust Survivor Stefan Kosinski](#)

- Questions**
- Why do you think it took so long for LGBT+ people to gain legal equality in the UK ?
 - What challenges might still face LGBT+ people even though they have LEGAL equality?
 - Why do you think homosexuals were sent to concentrations camps?

Religious Studies

Resources Video: [Does God hate Queers?](#)
Video: [God and the Gay Christian](#)

- Questions**
- Why might some religious people still struggle to champion LGBT+ equality?
 - How can we promote LGBT+ equality in religious communities?

English and Drama

Resources Website: [Collection of LGBTQ Poems](#)
Website: [The Secret Language of Polari](#)
Video: [It's not just Elsa](#)
Video: ['Stop all the clocks' from Four Weddings and a Funeral – eulogy for gay partner](#)

- Questions**
- Why might having a secret language – Polari – have been important for gay people?
 - How might being LGBT+ affect the way a person writes poetry?
 - How can people use creative writing to address taboo issues?
 - Why is it important for film studios like Disney to have LGBT+ characters in their movies?
 - What do we learn about the love between two men from this funeral speech in Four Weddings and a Funeral? How does the actor convey the depth of his character's emotions?

Business & Economics

Resources	Article: The Pink Pound Video: Lloyd's Bank Advert featuring gay marriage proposal Video: Why being diverse matters for business Article: LGBT+ purchasing power nears \$1 trillion rivals other minorities
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you ran a business, how could you make it appeal to LGBT+ consumers?• If you ran a business, how would you make sure that LGBT+ employees felt able to be themselves at work?

Science

Resources	Video: Is anatomy destiny? Video: Alan Turing [3.30min] Video: Is homosexuality nurture or nature?
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the difference between sex and gender?• What does it mean to you to be a man/boy or a woman/girl or neither?• Does it matter if sexual orientation is the result of nature or nurture?

Resources

You can access a number of our digital resources including logos, posters and stickers in our [online resource folder](#).

LGBT+ Facts

Young people in schools

- 9 in 10 hear homophobic remarks
- 6 in 10 suffer homophobic bullying
- 7 in 10 say homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying affects their school work
- 2 in 5 contemplate suicide
- 1 in 2 self harm

Crime

- 4 in 5 LGBT people have experienced hate crime
- 1 in 3 experience online hate crime

Football

- 1 in 5 fans would be embarrassed if their favourite player came out as gay
- Football fans are twice as likely to describe anti-LGBT language as “banter”.
- 7 in 10 fans have witnessed homophobic abuse at game

The world

- Same-sex relationships are illegal in at least 76 countries
- They are punishable by the death penalty in at least 5 countries
- 2.4 billion people live in places where they are illegal

Legislative reforms

These are some of the most significant legislative landmarks for LGBT+ issues in the UK. You can use these to help make a display, plan assemblies or include in PSHE lessons.

1967 Sexual Offences Act

Decriminalization of homosexual acts between men over 21

1980 Criminal Justice Act (Scotland)

Decriminalization of homosexual acts between men over 21 “in private”

1988 Local Government Act

Section 28 bans local authorities and schools from “promoting homosexuality”

2000 Homosexuality in the Army

Ban on homosexuals serving in the British army is lifted

2001 Crime and Disorder Bill

Age of consent for homosexual acts lowered from 18 to 16 years old in line with heterosexual acts

2002 Equal adoption

Homosexual couples are granted equal adoption rights

2004 Civil Partnership Act

Same sex couples have the same rights and responsibilities as married heterosexual couples

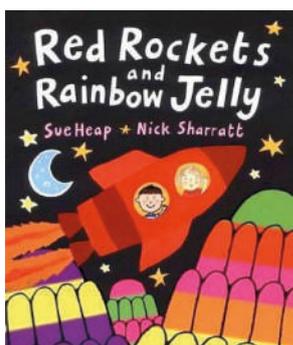
2010 Equality Act Regulations

Discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the provision of goods and services is made illegal

2014 Married Couples Act

Same sex marriage becomes legal

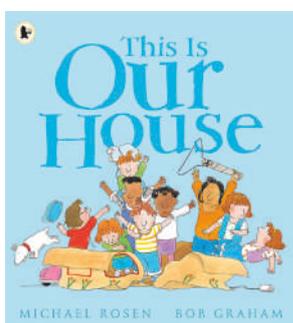
Primary School Books



Red Rockets and Rainbow Jelly

Sue Heap & Nick Sharratt

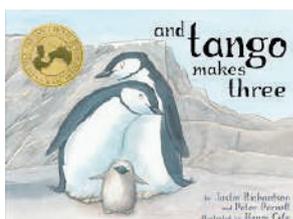
Nick and Sue have very different tastes: Nick likes red apples, Sue prefers green pears; Nick likes orange hair, but Sue likes purple hair. The book helps children understand that, despite their different tastes, Sue and Nick still like each other.



This is our house

Michael Rosen

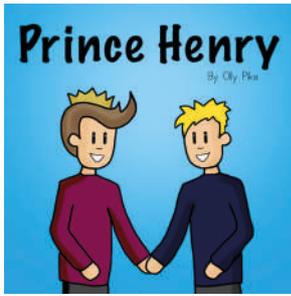
George says the cardboard house belongs to him and no one else – not girls, small people, twins, people with glasses, or people who like tunnels. But Lindy, Marly, Freddie, Charlene, Marlene, Luther, Sophie and Rasheda have other ideas! One by one each child is refused access until tables are turned and George finds how it feels to be on the receiving end.



And Tango makes Three

Justin Richardson & Peter Parnell

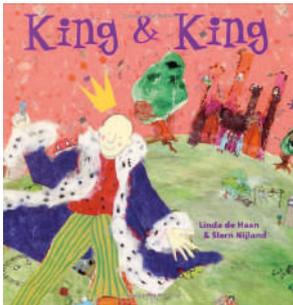
Based on the true life story of Roy and Silo, two penguins at the Central Park Zoo, New York. One day their keeper notices the penguins' attempts at hatching a rock. Why not just hatch an egg, you may ask? Perhaps because both Roy and Silo are male. Mr. Gramzay then provides them with a fertile egg and a chance to become a family.



Prince Henry

Olly Pike

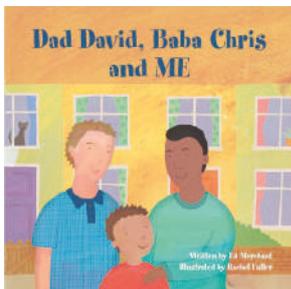
Prince Henry has to find someone to marry. The story follows Henry in his fairy tale kingdom where certain laws apply when it comes to choosing who you can spend your life with. A fairytale romance intended for young readers, 'Prince Henry' delivers a positive message of both love and equality.



King and King

Linda de Hann & Stern Nijland

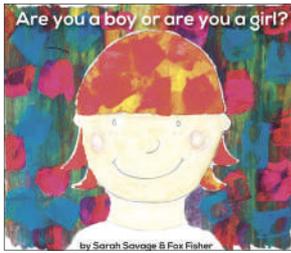
A grouchy queen tells her son that it is time for him to get married. "Very well, Mother, I must say, though, I've never cared much for princesses," he sighs. He instead falls in love with Prince Lee, and they wed.



Dad David, Baba Chris and Me

Ed Merchant

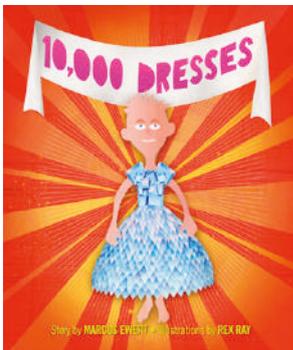
Ben was adopted by his gay parents when he was four years old, and they live happily together. When Ben starts school, his life is turned upside down. Children begin to tease him because he lives with two dads. Ben's school teacher, Miss Patel, helps Ben to understand that children live in all kinds of families and that what matters most is that children are loved and cared for.



Are you a boy or are you a girl?

Sarah Savage & Fox Fisher

Tiny doesn't tell other children whether they are a boy or a girl. They like to play dress-up, as both a fairy and a knight in shining armour. When they start a new school some other children struggle to understand. The book depicts how Tiny overcomes the problems they face, and helps to teach children the world over that gender is something to be cherished, explored and enjoyed.



10,000 dresses

Marcus Ewert & Rex Ray

Bailey dreams about magical dresses, but when Bailey is awake, no one wants to hear about these beautiful dreams. Bailey's mum and dad tell Bailey he shouldn't be thinking about dresses. When Bailey meets Laurel, an older girl who is touched and inspired by Bailey's imagination and courage, they begin making dresses together and Bailey's dream comes true.



Picnic in the Park

Joe Griffiths & Tony Pilgrim

A fully illustrated book for children. In telling the story of Jason's birthday picnic and his guests, children are introduced to different family types, from one and two parent families, to gay and lesbian families.

Secondary School Books



Two Songs for Hedli Anderson

W. H. Auden

A poem comprised of two songs, the first being perhaps the most famous Auden poem “Funeral Blues”, about the death of a beloved man, made famous by the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. The second song, “Johnny” is about the poet’s love for a man who is withholding and frequently goes away.

Lullaby

W. H. Auden

The author addresses his sleeping beloved, and though dwelling on the inevitability of time and death, hopes that his lover will continue to lie in his arms and be happy with what mortal life offers him.



Maurice

E. M. Forster

The novel follows the life of Maurice, who at age fourteen realises that marriage to a woman is not the future he sees for himself. After a failed attempt to “cure” his homosexuality through hypnotism, Maurice meets and falls in love with gamekeeper called Alec.



From Prejudice to Pride

Amy Lamé

Follow LGBT+ history from ancient civilisations to the present-day, and learn about key events including the trial of Oscar Wilde, the Stonewall riots, the AIDS crisis, same-sex marriage and changing laws that have impacted on LGBT+ life.



Martha

Audre Lorde

This poem is considered to be Lorde's first public "coming out" as a lesbian. In it Lorde speaks to Martha, a woman she loves, who was sent to an asylum for Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT).



Will Grayson, Will Grayson

John Green and David Levithan

A collaboration between two authors, this novel follows the stories of two boys, both named Will Grayson. Odd-numbered chapters tell the story through the eyes of a heterosexual teenager, and even-numbered chapters through the eyes of the second Will Grayson, a depressed homosexual teenager.



Café: 3AM

Langston Hughes

A poem about a police raid on a black gay establishment.

Blessed Assurance

Langston Hughes

A short story about an African-American boy criticised for his 'effeminacy' and 'queerness' by his parents and community. The story explores the intersections between race, gender roles, sexuality, and Christianity.



Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit

Jeanette Winterson

A coming-of-age story about Jeanette, a girl growing up in an English Pentecostal community who finds herself attracted to another girl. The novel follows Jeanette's relationships with women, and her efforts to reconcile her sexuality with participation in the Church and belief in God.

Further Reading

Orlando

Virginia Woolf

Parrotfish

Ellen Wattlinger

The Letters of Vita Sackville-West to Virginia Woolf

Vita Sackville-West

Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence

Adrienne Rich

Mundo Cruel

Luis Negrón

Stepping Backward

Adrienne Rich

Spoken Word

Pride

Joanna Hoffman

A Gay Poem

Keith Jarrett

Trans/National

Janani

Janani speaks about being transgender in a non-white community, including differing ideas about masculinity, language and ways of being accepted.

Dear Straight People

Denise Frohman

Denise Frohman addresses “straight people” and talks about the difficulties that still exist for gay people, including the simplest of things like holding hands with a partner in public. *(There is some swearing.)*

All Oppression is Connected

Stacey Ann Chin

Stacey Ann Chin speaks about how different oppressions, such as those related to race and sexuality, intersect, and how it is important to recognise that several factors may be affecting a person’s ability to live a life free from prejudice. *(There is some swearing.)*

PSHE Films

These are some of the best videos about LGBT+ issues on the internet.

Whether you show them at lunchtime, in an assembly or during a PSHE lesson, they are an engaging and thought-provoking way to promote awareness and stimulate discussion.

[Fifty Shades of Gay](#)

Jenni Chang and Lisa Dazlos [18.18]

Artist iO Tillett Wright has photographed 2,000 people who consider themselves somewhere on the LGBT+ spectrum and asked many of them: can you assign a percentage to how gay or straight you are? Most people, it turns out, consider themselves to exist in the grey areas of sexuality, not 100% gay or straight.

[The Gift of Living Gay](#)

Karen McCrocklin [16.48]

Karen McCrocklin is on a mission to celebrate the gift of being gay. As a storyteller, writer and radio host, she is committed to changing the narrative to include the idea that LGBT+ people are here to elevate the collective consciousness and teach us about how we are more alike than we are different. Karen also believes that being born a lesbian is the best thing that could have ever happened to her

[Why am I so gay?](#)

Thomas Lloyd [22.23]

In this powerful talk, Thomas Lloyd talks about taking pride in owning his identity and the strength that stems from that ownership.

[Why must I come out?](#)

Geena Rocero [9.59]

When fashion model Geena Rocero first saw a photo of herself in a bikini, “I thought ... you have arrived!” As she reveals, that’s because she was born with the gender assignment “boy.” In this moving talk, Rocero tells the story of becoming who she always knew she was.

A powerful poem about what it feels like to be transgender

Lee Mokobe [4.21]

“I was the mystery of an anatomy, a question asked but not answered,” says poet Lee Mokobe, a TED Fellow, in this gripping and poetic exploration of identity and transition. It’s a thoughtful reflection on bodies, and the meanings poured into them.

The Myth of the Gay Agenda

LZ Granderson [17.51]

In a funny talk with an urgent message, LZ Granderson points out the absurdity in the idea that there’s a “gay lifestyle,” much less a “gay agenda.” What’s actually on his agenda? Being a good partner — and being a good parent.

LGBT+ Films

Gay Best Friend (Rating 15)

Tanner is unwillingly outed by his classmates and is quickly adopted as a “gay best friend” by three competing popular girls, who try to use him to further their own reputations. The film also follows Tanner’s relationship with his three best friends. The film is an amusing examination of stereotypes of gay men and lesbians, and of the worries and difficulties of coming out as gay, voluntarily or otherwise, at secondary school.

Pride (Rating 15)

Based on real-life events, this uplifting film follows the efforts of UK gay activists (Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners) to help miners during the national strikes that took place in 1984.

Priscilla Queen of the Desert (Rating 15)

Three drag queens, one of whom is also a transgender woman, travel across Australia from Sydney to Alice Springs, to perform at a hotel owned by the main character Anthony’s separated wife. The three experience homophobia and acceptance in the small communities they visit along the way, and Anthony worries about what his son who he hasn’t seen for years will think of his sexuality and profession.

Mosquita Y Mari (no certificate)

A top student begins tutoring a school rebel who comes from a very different economic background and set of life experiences. They develop a mutual crush, but are torn apart by their differences when they are unable to put words to their emotions and embark on a journey of self-discovery. The film examines the uncertainty of being a teenager, and how for many under-privileged teenagers there can be very little choice in how they live their lives.

My Beautiful Laundrette (Rating 15)

Young Pakistani-Londoner Omar is handed control of his uncle's run-down laundromat, and hires an old school friend, Johnny, seemingly a young thug, to work for him. The two soon begin a romantic relationship, which along with the drug-related work they perform for Omar's uncle's associates, they must keep hidden. Omar also finds himself attracted to his uncle's Westernised daughter, Tania, and despite turning the laundromat into a successful business, finds himself conflicted between his Pakistani immigrant identity and relationship with Johnny.

Rent (Rating 12)

A musical set in 1980s New York, at the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the story follows a diverse group of friends as they battle disease, poverty and drug addiction and learn to live life to the full despite not knowing how long it will last. The group all wish they could emulate the relationship between Collins, an HIV-positive gay man who teaches philosophy at MIT, and Angel, a gender-non-conforming, and also HIV-positive, street performer, who seem to find with each other a deep and meaningful love before Angel's tragic early death.

LGBT+ Documentaries

Paris is Burning (Rating 15)

Filmed in the 1980s this landmark documentary examines New York ball culture – competitions in which contestants must “walk”, much like runway fashion-shows. They were judged according to how well they express a theme, the beauty of their clothing and their dancing ability. The scene was populated mainly by Black, and Latino members of the gay and transgender community. The film documents both the balls themselves, and the lives of the participants who group themselves into “Houses” that serve as surrogate families for young people who were frequently ostracised by their own families because of their sexuality or gender expression. The filming style of this documentary allows it to brilliantly capture a historic microcosm of LGBT+ communities, and allows the participants to speak for themselves about their experiences of racism, homophobia, HIV/AIDS and poverty.

Tig (Rating 12)

A film biography of stand-up comedian Tig Notaro, of her life after a performance of new material about her breast cancer diagnosis at a Los Angeles comedy club, which made her a viral sensation. The documentary follows Tig’s life in the year after that performance, during which she deals with working as a comedian across America, a new relationship, trying to have a child as a same-sex couple and coping with her mother’s death.

Becoming Chaz (No rating)

This documentary follows the story of Chaz Bono, son of the famous duo Sonny and Cher Bono, as he goes through the process of gender reassignment, covering the medical and legal procedures he undergoes as well as the response of the media. Chaz was assigned female at birth and named Chastity, and decided to make a documentary about his transition in order to help people in a similar position to him. The film features interviews with Chaz’s family and partner, and documents their attempts to understand his gender identity, and as his mother persists in referring to him as “she” it is clear that some continue to struggle.

See also

My Trans Story (Channel 4)

A series of short documentary clips narrated by transgender individuals, addressing issues such as familial acceptance, having a transgender child, transitioning later in life and being involved in institutions such as the Church and Navy.

Coming Out to School (Channel 4)

Britain's first openly gay rapper, QBoy, explores why more and more teenagers are coming out as LGBT+ at an earlier age, and what it is like to be a young LGBT+ person in Britain.

For The Bible Tells Me So

A documentary about reconciling homosexuality and Biblical scripture, arguing that Church-sanctioned homophobia is based on a deliberately malicious misreading of the Bible.

Explaining School Diversity Week

We've created materials that will help you explain to your school community what School Diversity Week is, and why your school is taking part. We've included:

- draft letters to governors, staff and parents/carers
- an FAQ for parents/carers
- a draft press release that you can personalise and use with local media outlets if you'd like to share information about your involvement with the initiative

Email to Governors

Dear all

<School Name> is celebrating School Diversity Week 3-7 July

As part of our efforts to ensure our school environment is a place where every child can realise their potential, we will be joining tens of thousands of pupils and teachers taking part in School Diversity Week 2017 to celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT+) equality in education.

Section 28, which made it difficult for schools to address LGBT+ issues in a positive way, was repealed in 2003. But unfortunately, growing up remains unacceptably tough for LGBT+ young people: 40% contemplate suicide, 50% self harm and 96% still hear homophobic remarks. This has a potentially life-long impact on young people's attainment and wellbeing.

The school and governors have a legal duty to ensure all forms of bullying, including homophobic bullying, are tackled under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, an obligation which has been reinforced by the Equalities Act 2010. Ofsted will assess our approach to educating our young people about LGBT+ issues and bullying. Involvement with School Diversity Week has been commended by Ofsted as an indication that a school is fulfilling these responsibilities.

School Diversity Week 2017, organised by the charity Just Like Us (justlikeus.org), was launched with the support of the Department for Education and the Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening MP, and is sponsored by the Daily Telegraph. It is an annual event, with over 45,000 pupils and teachers taking part last year.

Alongside our anti-bullying and safeguarding policies, taking part in School Diversity Week is an important way of actively supporting LGBT+ young people in our school, and of demonstrating our commitment to an inclusive school environment where every young person can be themselves and thrive. It is a chance to explain to all our students the importance of diversity in the world we are preparing them for.

Please do not hesitate to contact <insert name>, who will be leading our preparations, to find out more.

Email to Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

<School Name> is celebrating School Diversity Week 3-7 July

As part of our efforts to ensure our school environment is a place where every child can realise their potential, we will be joining tens of thousands of pupils and teachers taking part in School Diversity Week 2017 to celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT+) equality in education.

Growing up remains unacceptably tough for LGBT+ young people: 40% contemplate suicide, 50% self harm and 96% still hear homophobic remarks. This has a potentially life-long impact on young people's attainment and wellbeing. Alongside our anti-bullying and safeguarding policies, taking part in School Diversity Week is an important way of actively supporting LGBT+ young people in our school, and of demonstrating our commitment to an inclusive school environment where every young person can be themselves and thrive. It is a chance to explain to all our students the importance of diversity in the world we are preparing them for.

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a legal obligation to promote understanding about LGBT+ equality and challenge prejudice. Ofsted will assess our approach to educating our young people about LGBT+ issues and combatting bullying. Involvement with School Diversity Week has been commended by Ofsted as an indication that a school is fulfilling these responsibilities.

School Diversity Week 2017, organised by the charity Just Like Us (justlikeus.org), was launched with the support of the Department for Education and the Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening MP, and is sponsored by the Daily Telegraph. It is an annual event, with over 45,000 pupils and teachers taking part last year.

Please do not hesitate to contact <Insert name>, who will be leading our preparations, to find out more.

FAQ for Parents/Carers

What is School Diversity Week?

School Diversity Week is the national celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT+) equality in education. Organised by the charity Just Like Us (justlikeus.org) and endorsed by the Department for Education, the week empowers pupils and teachers to take responsibility for tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic (HBT) bullying. In 2016, over 45,000 pupils and teachers took part.

Why do we need to champion LGBT+ equality in schools?

Growing up remains unacceptably tough for LGBT+ young people with potentially life-long impact on young people's attainment and wellbeing: 2 in 5 LGBT+ young people miss school because of homophobia, 1 in 2 self harm and 2 in 5 contemplate suicide. We need to take action to support these vulnerable young people, and explain to all our students the importance of diversity in the world we are preparing them for.

LGBT+ Young People

1 in 2 self harm

2 in 5 contemplate suicide

9 in 10 hear homophobic remarks

7 in 10 say homophobia affects their school work

Why is our school taking part in School Diversity Week?

As a school, we are committed to creating an inclusive community where everyone – staff and students – can be themselves and realise their potential.

The school and governors have a legal duty to ensure all forms of bullying, including homophobic bullying, are tackled under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This responsibility was reinforced by the Equality Act 2010 which obliges us to promote understanding about LGBT+ equality and challenge discrimination and prejudice.

Ofsted will assess our approach to educating our young people about LGBT+ issues and bullying. Involvement with School Diversity Week has been commended by Ofsted as an indication that a school is fulfilling these responsibilities.

Are my children too young to discuss issues related to sexual orientation?

In line with our legal obligations, we are committed to educating young people about LGBT+ equality and the importance of challenging prejudice and discrimination in age-appropriate ways. This is also true when we tackle other forms of discrimination – on the grounds of race, religion or disability, for example – at all ages. We have a zero tolerance approach to homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying at any age.

School Diversity Week acknowledges that sexual orientation and gender identity are fundamental characteristics of individual identity, protected by law. It champions the fact that all children, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity, will have the opportunity to live happy and fulfilled lives. It recognises the contributions of LGBT+ people to our culture. By taking part in School Diversity Week, our school will be preparing our students for a world in which the importance of diversity is recognised, and individuals protected from discrimination.

Draft Press Release

Contact: <Name> <Telephone>

Release: Immediate

Photos: Justine Greening & <ADD PHOTO IF DESIRED>

<SCHOOL NAME> JOIN TENS OF THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS CELEBRATING SCHOOL DIVERSITY WEEK 2017

Students from <Name of school> will be joining tens of thousands of pupils and teachers across the country in celebrating School Diversity Week (3-7 July), the national celebration of lesbian, gay bisexual and trans (LGBT+) equality in education, organised by the charity Just Like Us (justlikeus.org).

Section 28, which made it difficult for schools to address LGBT+ issues in a positive way, was repealed in 2003. But unfortunately, growing up remains unacceptably tough for LGBT+ young people: 40% contemplate suicide, 50% self harm and 96% still hear homophobic remarks. That's why <Name of school> students and teachers are getting creative to make school a place where every young person can be themselves and thrive.

Explaining the importance of School Diversity Week, Headteacher, <Insert Name>, said "<Quotation>".

As part of the week, students and teachers will be <any events being held>. Describing why <he/she/they> are involved in the week, <Pupil Name> in <Year X>, said "<Quotation>".

Last year, over 45,000 pupils and teachers organised events during School Diversity Week 2016 ranging from cake sales to drama and musical performances. School Diversity Week 2017 is expected to involve at least 100,00 young people across the UK.

The week was launched in April by the Secretary of State for Education, Justine Greening, who described coming out as 'the best thing I've done in many, many, many a year,' adding "I think it was a choice that I needed to make. I needed to be true to myself about who I am and I also felt I did and I do have a responsibility to the broader LGBT community".

Praising the work of Just Like Us to improve the quality of life of LGBT+ pupils in schools, she added “I think it would have been really helpful for people like me growing up.”

Schools interested in taking part in School Diversity Week can visit www.justlikeus.org/sdw to find out more information.

Notes to editors

1. School Diversity Week is a voluntary initiative running 3-7 July 2017 across England and Wales. Over 45,000 pupils celebrated the event in 2016 which was supported by all major political parties, the Department for Education and the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Education. The week helps schools meet their obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and Ofsted’s Inspectorate Framework to tackle homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying.
2. During School Diversity Week, Just Like Us provides schools with a plug & play resource pack to help teachers empower pupils to organise events. In 2016, events included: non uniform days, debates, workshops, Pride Festivals, concerts and cake sales.
3. Stonewall’s Teachers’ Report 2014 found that 9 in 10 secondary school teachers still heard the word ‘gay’ being used in a negative sense by pupils, while 9 in 10 had also witnessed homophobic bullying. It also found LGBT+ bullying in around half of primary schools. But only a tiny minority of teachers at primary and secondary level had received training to deal with such incidents. https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/teachers_report_2014.pdf.

Further information on the experience of LGBT+ young people can be found in Stonewall’s The School Report 2012: https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/The_School_Report__2012_.pdf

4. Just Like Us is a registered charity, number 1665194, with more information available at www.justlikeus.org