

# A PLACE WHERE WE BELONG: TOP TIPS FOR PROMOTING DIVERSITY IN SCHOOL

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FROM THE DIANA AWARD





Look around you and you'll notice just how much diversity there is in your school. Sometimes that diversity is visible – people of different genders, different body shapes, different skin colour – and sometimes it's not immediately visible – people with different religions, different learning needs, a different sexual orientation to your own. Each one of us is our very own walking, talking work of art. Like a work of art, each one of us is unique, priceless, and valuable to our communities. Diversity makes us interesting and we all have a role to play in making sure every student in school feels accepted for who they are.

Together with The Diana Award, we have come up with some practical ways that you can promote diversity, inclusion and kindness in your school. Working together, we can make sure everyone in your school finds a place where they belong!

## Review your Anti-Bullying Policy

Is your school's Anti-Bullying Policy youth-friendly and accessible to everyone? Make sure it is easy for younger students to understand – you could even create a poster or video version. Finally, find out if your school's policy includes a section on identity-based bullying and discrimination. It's really important that students understand what to do if they're being bullied in this way.

## Inclusion survey

Put together a survey for students to find out about the types of bullying that occur in your school. Does anyone experience racism or bullying on the basis of their religion, gender or sexuality, for instance? You could also give the survey to your teachers. The results will help you to get an in-depth illustration of where to focus your efforts and help to make sure every student in school feels included and celebrated. This survey will also help you to measure whether your activities have had an impact if you repeat it at the end of the school year.



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## Spread the diversity message

Research and identify key dates/ months that will give you the chance to talk about and celebrate diversity with your peers. Examples could include Black History Month, Diwali, World Autism Day, Ramadan... the possibilities are endless! Involve your teachers and other students to come up with creative ways to celebrate these dates. This is an opportunity to learn more and to spread awareness across the school in a fun and engaging way.

## Escape the everyday on World Diversity Day!

The 21st May is World Diversity Day. Spend the day exploring different cultures – the world is an incredible place! Why not set each student a challenge to look at how their life would be different if they lived in another country? What food would they eat, who would they live with, what would they live in, what might they wear? What do they imagine their favourite thing about living in this country would be? What do they think the rest of the students could learn from this country? Encourage students to find out whether another student in the school has visited the country or maybe was born there or has family from there. Talking to them will provide a lot more insight into the culture being explored!

## Stand Up to Bullying

If you're being bullied it can make all the difference to receive even one friendly message. If you see someone being bullied, let them know that they can block the bullies and report the abuse. They should also save or screenshot evidence of the bullying. Finally, encourage them to speak to someone they trust instead of suffering in silence.





## Organise fun events

Think about creative ways to promote diversity in school. You could set up a photobooth and ask students to take pictures holding up positive messages about equality. You could organise a balloon launch where every student writes an equality pledge on each balloon. Why not organise a colour run to celebrate diversity in all its forms? Get creative and think about ways to get other students excited to spread the message!

## Days to build your activities around

- 21st September – World Peace Day
- October: Black History Month
- 10th October: World Mental Health Day
- 2nd April – World Autism Day
- 6th – 12th May – Deaf Awareness Week
- 17th May – International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia
- June – Pride Month
- 12th July – Disability Awareness Day
- 18th July – Nelson Mandela International Day

... And much more! Take a look online to see if there are any other awareness days you would like to promote in school.

## Train Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in your School

The Diana Award, Anti-Bullying Programme works with students to tackle issues around bullying and tolerance, they are passionate about. To find out more about how your school can come together and tackle bullying, head to their website and learn more about Anti-Bullying - [www.antibullyingpro.com/training](http://www.antibullyingpro.com/training)



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