



UNDIVIDED

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DIVERSITY CALENDAR
2023-2024

Diversity Calendar

2023-2024

The GDST Diversity and Inclusion Calendar is a tool to help to take note of the many celebration days, cultural events and social awareness dates in our communities. There are numerous dates that we could celebrate, and while they're not all captured here, this calendar aims to highlight some of the key ones. Each month has a key theme, to support cross-working across departments and activities and to provide a framework for activities taking place across the GDST network to support inclusion and to celebrate diversity.

THEMES

September	Ready to Learn
October	Celebrate Black Excellence
November	Faith in our Community
December	Kindness
January	New Year - New Beginnings
February	Love is Love
March	Gender Equality
April	Accessibility
May	Mental Health and Wellbeing
June	Pride
July	South Asian Heritage Month
August	South Asian Heritage Month

Ready to Learn

The start of the academic year is a wonderful time to embrace the ethos of learning. It's a chance for all of us to commit to being open minded, to learning new things about people and topics and to listening to others.

SEPTEMBER

10	World Suicide Prevention Day
15	International Day of Democracy
15	World Afro Day - Big Hair Assembly
15-17	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)
18	Jeans for Genes Day
19	Youth Mental Health Day
21	International Day of Peace
23	Bi Visibility Day
24	World Deaf Day
24-25	Yom Kippur (Jewish)
26	European Day of Languages
29-30	Sukkot (Jewish)

Celebrate Black Excellence

Black History Month spans the whole of October, although of course anti-racism is important all year round. October is an opportunity to celebrate the many positive role models of Afro-Caribbean descent to ensure that there is positive representation across our schools.

OCTOBER

1-6	Sukkot (Jewish) cont.
1-31	Black History Month UK
1-31	Global Diversity Awareness Month
1-31	ADHD Awareness Month
2-8	Dyslexia Awareness Week
6-8	Simchat Torah (Jewish)
9	Birthday of Guru Ram Das (Sikh)
10	World Mental Health Day
12	World Sight Day
15	Navaratri begins (Hindu)
18	Anti Slavery Day
22	International Stammering Awareness Day
24	United Nations Day
26	Intersex Awareness Day
31	All Hallows' Eve (Christian)

Faith in our Community

Faith and belief are incredibly personal things. At the same time, they bring groups together through shared points of view and cultural occasions. The diverse faiths of our school communities, and the wider society around us, is rich, complex and fascinating. There are a number of interesting dates in November relating to different faiths that inform our theme of "Faith in our Community."

November is also Islamaphobia Awareness Month. We hope you enjoy finding out about some of the diverse beliefs of our community, sharing your own, and celebrating the diversity among us all.

NOVEMBER

1	All Saints' Day (Christian)
1-30	Islamophobia Awareness Month
2	All Souls' Day (Christian)
11	Armistice Day (Interfaith)
12	Bandi Chhor Divas (Sikh)
12	Remembrance Sunday
12-19	Interfaith Week
13	Diwali
13	World Kindness Day
13-17	Anti-Bullying Week
14	Hindu New Year
14-19	Transgender Awareness Week
19	Mitzvah Day (faith-led day of social action)
20	Transgender Day of Remembrance
20	Universal Children's Day
23	Thanksgiving (Interfaith USA)
24	Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur (Sikh)
25	Intl. Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
27	Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev (Sikh)

Kindness Kindness

As we head into the Winter Holidays, kindness feels like a positive and important theme to close the year with. For those who celebrate Christmas, it's a time to show kindness to our friends and family through spending time together and exchanging gifts. December also marks Human Rights Day and International Human Solidarity Day. So let's make December all about treating our fellow human beings with kindness.

DECEMBER

1	World AIDS Day
2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
3	Advent Sunday (Christian)
3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
7-15	Chanukah (Jewish)
8	Rohatsu (Bodhi Day) (Buddhist)
10	Human Rights Day
18	International Migrants Day
20	International Human Solidarity Day
24	Christmas Eve (Christian)
25	Christmas Day (Christian)
26	Boxing Day
26	Saint Stephen's Day (Christian)
31	New Year's Eve

New Year - New Beginnings

As we start 2024, we want to encourage everyone to go into the new year with open hearts and minds. We all make mistakes. And we're always learning every day. January is a great time to put those things aside and enter into 2024 with positivity.

JANUARY

1	New Year's Day
1	Global Family Day
4	World Braille Day
6	Epiphany (Christian)
7	Orthodox Christmas
13	Lohri/Maghi (Sikh)
15	Makar Sankranti (Hindu)
15	World Religion Day
16	Martin Luther King Jnr Day
18-25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Christian)
20	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)
25	Tu B'Shvat (Jewish)
27	Holocaust Memorial Day

Love is Love

It's Valentine's Day in February, so what better way to celebrate all the different types of relationships and families that exist in our communities: multi-racial families, LGBT relationships, same sex parents, single parents, to name a few. Representation is key, so we hope that February gives us a chance to think about what we're reading, sharing and watching, to ensure that all types of families and relationships across feel represented.

FEBRUARY

1-29	LGBT+ History Month
1	World Hijab Day
1	Time to Talk Day
5-11	Children's Mental Health Week
7	Lailat al Miraj (Islam)
10	Chinese New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)
11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
13	Shrove Tuesday
14	Ash Wednesday
14	Saint Valentine's Day
20	World Day of Social Justice
24	International STAND UP to Bullying Day
26-29	Jewish Book week

Gender Equality

March is Women's History Month and includes International Women's Day. Gender equality is an important topic and one that we're particularly passionate about in the Girls' Day School Trust. The gender pay gap is still too wide. Gender stereotypes still exist. There is a shortage of women in STEM. March is a chance to learn more about how we can all help to gain a fairer balance, which benefits the whole of society.

MARCH

1-6	Jewish Book Week cont.
1-31	Women's History Month
1	International Wheelchair Day
1	Saint David's Day (Christian)
1	Zero Discrimination Day
3	World Hearing Day
8	International Women's Day
10	Mothering Sunday
10-31	Ramadan
11-17	Neurodiversity Celebration Week
16	Young Carers Action Day
17	Saint Patrick's Day (Christian)
20	Nowruz (Persian New Year)
24	Purim (Jewish)
25	Holi (Hindu)
29	Good Friday
31	Easter Sunday
31	International Transgender Day of Visibility

Accessibility Accessibility

There are many different types of disabilities, and not all of them are visible. During April, we would like to focus on the importance of being aware of disabilities, understanding what they mean for individuals, and most importantly, how we can ensure that we make our worlds as accessible as possible.

APRIL

1-9	Ramadan cont.
1-31	World Autism Appreciation Month
2	World Autism Awareness Day
7	World Health Day
8	International Romani Day
10	Eid Al-Fitr; Ramadan ends
13	Vaisakhi (Sikh New Year)
22	Earth Day
22	Stephen Lawrence Day
22-30	Passover
23	Saint George's Day (Christian)

Mental Health and Wellbeing

As Mental Health Awareness Week falls in May, we would like to elevate our conversations about mental health and wellbeing this month. We hope that May provides the opportunity to reflect on what supports our wellbeing and to put it into practice.

MAY

3	Orthodox Good Friday
5	Orthodox Easter Sunday
6	Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)
6-12	Deaf Awareness Week
9	Ascension Day
13-20	Mental Health Awareness Week
14	National Children’s Day
15	Birthday of Guru Amar Das (Sikh)
16	Global Accessibility Awareness Day
17	Intl Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
18	Ascension of Jesus (Christian)
19	Pentecost (Christian)
21	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and development
22-28	Period Poverty Awareness Week
23	Vesak (Buddhist)
25	Africa Day
25	Four years since the murder of George Floyd
26	Trinity Sunday (Christian)

Pride Pride

June is Pride Month, a National opportunity to celebrate the many inspirational role models across the LGBTQ+ community and to remember why the original Pride marches took place - to protect safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community.

JUNE

1-30	Pride Month
1-30	Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month
10	Global Wellness Day
10-16	Loneliness Awareness Week
10-16	Men's Health Week
12	World Day against Child Labour
15	Waqf al Arafah (Islam)
16	Father's Day
16-22	Refugee Week
17	Eid al-Adha
17-22	Learning Disability Week
20	World Refugee Day
20	Summer Solstice
21	World Humanist Day
22	UK Windrush Day
24-28	School Diversity Week LGBT+
25-30	Deaf blind Awareness Week
29	Armed Forces Day

South Asian Heritage Month

From mid July to mid August, while students and teaching staff won't be in schools, we would like to celebrate South Asian Heritage Month. This is a time to commemorate and celebrate the diverse South Asian cultures, communities and histories, and especially their impact on Britain.

School colleagues may wish to bring activities forward to early July, or to hold them in September, or may wish to recommend South Asian literature, films and music for students and colleagues to enjoy during the school holidays.

JULY

1	Deaf blind Awareness Week cont.
1	London Pride
7	Al-Hijra/Muharram (Muslim New Year)
16	Ashura (Islam)
17	World Day for International Justice
18	Nelson Mandela International Day
18-31	South Asian Heritage Month
19	Al-Hijra/Muharram – New Year (Islam)
21	Dharma Day (Buddhist)
30	International Day of Friendship

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AUGUST

1-17

South Asian Heritage Month cont.

12

International Youth Day

12-13

Tish'a B'av (Jewish)

19

World Humanitarian Day

23

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its history

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THE GDST IS COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY,
INCLUSION, AND REAL CHANGE

GDST