



ARTICLE OF THE WEEK

INTRODUCING LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH

LGBT+ History Month is in February each year.

LGBT+ History Month focuses on the celebration and recognition of LGBT+ people and culture; past and present to give people scope to talk about the bigger picture of LGBT+ experience, in which LGBT+ people are the agents of change.

The month celebrates successes and people and also recognises the challenges still faced today. The month also helps people outside of the LGBT+ community learn more about LGBT+ people, culture and history.

Find out more: lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk



Dan introduces LGBT+ History Month



[Watch Dan YouTube](#)



**RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS**

ARTICLES FOR LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH

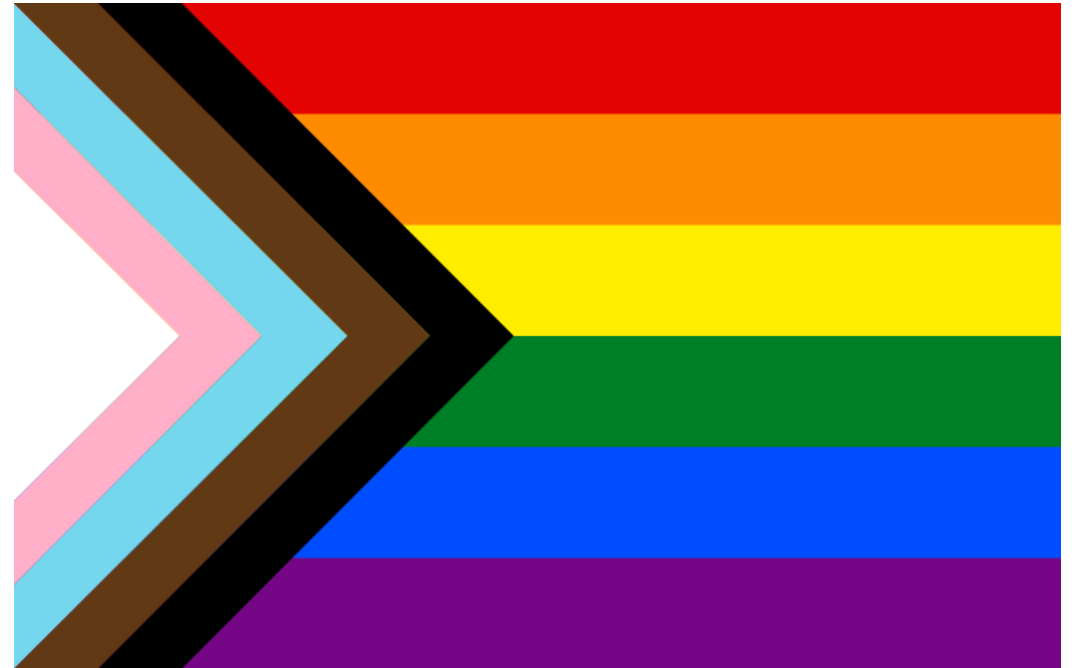
There are two articles that provide a particularly strong link this week:

- **Article 2 – Non-discrimination**
- **Article 13 – Freedom of expression**

However, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has equity, dignity and inclusion at its heart.


Rights are **indivisible** and numerous articles challenge duty bearers to ensure that all children and young people are included and empowered to be who they are and able to express their identity and to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination.

February is marked as LGBT+ History Month. It provides an opportunity to draw attention to an important aspect of diversity and inclusion and to shine a light on the contributions to life and society by numerous LGBT+ people which may, in the past, have been overlooked or side-lined because of their identity.



LGBTQ+ Rainbow Progress Pride Flag
Wikicomons

EXPLORING LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH



How can we help everyone feel valued and included in our community and in our school?

Note down your thoughts and compare with the next slide.

HOW MANY OF THESE DID YOU GET?

- We can accept people for who they are and not judge them.
- Help all people to feel welcome.
- Remember that not all families look the same.
- Respect and support people to love who they love.
- We can be open and respectful to new ideas about identity.
- We can speak up and challenge unfair comments or actions.
- Make more effort to learn about people who are different from us.
- Respect the religious choices of all.
- Ensure that all children and young people's opinions are taken into account when making decisions about them.

Did you get any of these? What other answers did you have?

ACTIVITY TIME Y5/6



LGBTQ+ Rainbow Progress Pride Flag
WikiCommons

Read the story **Elmer the Elephant**, you can also [watch it here](#). Elmer didn't feel that he wanted to be the same as the other elephants. Think of ways that we can celebrate our differences like the elephants do on 'Elmer Day' – talk about your ideas with an adult.

Have you heard the word **courage**? What does courage mean to you? Can you think of a person in your life who has shown courage? Create a fact file on that person (it could even be an historical figure) and write about how they have shown courage in their lives.

It is important to be proud of who we are. Make a '**Proud To Be Me**' factsheet or poster. You might want to include your favourite foods, colours, activities, or places you like to go. Think about what things you've included that make you unique and proud to be you.

The LGBTQ+ Rainbow Progress Pride Flag is a symbol of **inclusion** and **diversity**. Look up these two words and think about the link with rights such as Article 2 – non-discrimination. Write a poem about all these ideas called Rainbows and Rights or Design a Rights Respecting Inclusive Flag explaining what each colour and symbol means to you.

ACTIVITY TIME Y5/6

Being happy and proud about who we are as people is important. Have you read **The Flamingo Who Didn't Want To Be Pink?** [Watch the story made by children at William Tyndale School](#) – a gold rights respecting school. Try to get all your family and friends to tell you the best things they like about being themselves and the best things about you.

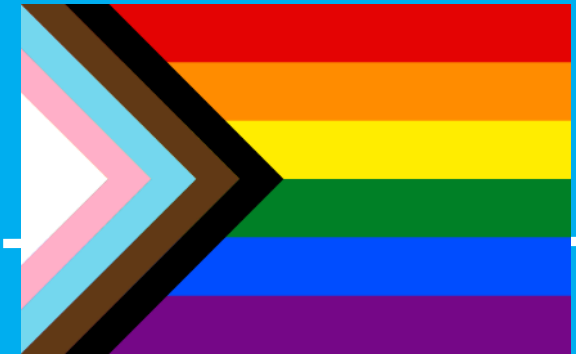
Do some research and create a fact file on an inspirational LGBT+ figure that you know. It may be someone famous, a figure in history or somebody you know. What do their actions show us about equality, dignity and rights? Share your fact file with the people you live with or with your class.

There are many different types of families. For example, some children may live with a mum and a dad, just a mum, two dads or live with other carers who look after them. Fold a sheet of A4 paper into 8 boxes. Draw and label a different type of family in each box. How many types of family can you think of? Can you think of any rights connected with this activity?

Listen to the story [Julian is a Mermaid](#) read by the author Jessica Love. Talk with your friend or a family member about how the story made you feel.



ACTIVITY TIME Y7/8



LGBTQ+ Rainbow Progress Pride Flag
Wikicomons

[Watch this video and read the article from FirstNews](#) to find out why it's important to celebrate LGBT+ history month. Think of some ways that your school can celebrate and share them with your friends or with a teacher.

There are many organisations who you can reach out to if you feel the need to talk about your gender identity such as [Switch Board](#). Create a database of organisations that can be displayed in your school for pupils who may need their support.

Think of the concept of 'Pride'. Look up the word in the dictionary. What makes you feel proud? Are you proud of who you are? LGBT+ communities around the world celebrate their pride with marches, but in many countries, people attending are still arrested or met with violence because of who they are. [Read this BBC article](#) and share something you learned from it with a friend or somebody you live with.

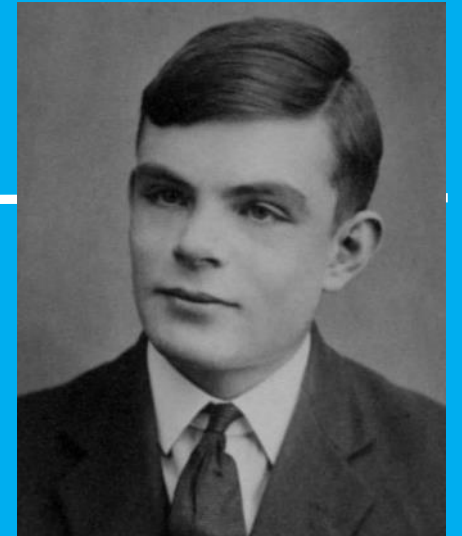
The Rainbow flag is sometimes known as the Pride flag. Some people during Pride celebrations are now using the new Progress flag, designed by Daniel Quasar, this is the flag pictured above. Research online what the added coloured chevrons on the Progress flag represent and discuss why they are important to include. Share what you have found with your friends or teacher, perhaps in an online lesson.

ACTIVITY TIME Y7/8

Watch this video about growing up LGBT in school. Think about the things your school does to positively promote equality and inclusion and to challenge prejudice and discrimination. How do rights help with this? What feedback would you give? Use the headings What Works Well and Even Better If. Discuss this with your friends and share it with senior staff in your school.



Alan Turing is described as one of the founders of modern computing. Find out more about his life and work. If you are over the age of 12 you might want to watch 'The Imitation Game'. Design a webpage or poster to celebrate all of Turing's achievements.



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As a Rights Respecting school you probably campaign for the rights of others. Stonewall is a very successful campaigning charity working for the rights of the LGBT+ community. Have a look at their website and try to learn some lessons about good campaigning. Write a list of 5 Top Tips For Effective Campaigning and share these with your School Council or your RRSA group.

Find a selection of media reports about LGBT+ people. For example, Eddie Izzard, a Unicef UK ambassador recently announced her desire to be identified with the pronouns she/her. Think about whether the reports you find are positive or negative. How do you think these reports impact on children's enjoyment of their rights? Research one of the reports in more detail and then write a positive article about what you have found out. You can find out more about the work Eddie does with Unicef UK here.

REFLECTION

This week we have included a lot of activities that explore sexuality, identity and gender.

Article 2 in the Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

- **Keep that in mind and watch this video, 'Love has no labels' and see what messages it gives you.**
- **Then think about how you can show acceptance and kindness to all the people in your life.**
- **What makes you proud of who you are as a person?**

