



# EQUALITY , DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CALENDAR 2024/25









### 7th September - Ganesh Chaturthi

Ganesh Chaturthi is a ten-day Hindu festival celebrated to honour the elephant-headed God Ganesha's birthday. He is the younger son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. Ganesh is known by 108 different names and is the Lord of arts and Science and the deva of wisdom. He is honoured at the start of rituals and ceremonies as he is considered the God of beginnings.

### 16th -22th September-Jeans for Genes

Jeans for Genes Day is an annual fundraising campaign which is aimed at supporting families and individuals affected by genetic disorders. The campaign raises money through a variety of activities in order to provide grants to organisations which transform the lives of children living with genetic disorders.

# SEPTEMBER 2024

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### 1st -31st October-Black History Month

Black History Month is a month-long celebration which aims to promote and celebrate Black contributions to British society.

### 2nd - 4th October-Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah is also known as the Jewish New Year. It is an autumn or fall holiday, at the beginning of the month of Tishrei, which is actually the seventh month of the Jewish year. This Jewish holiday celebrates the completion of another year, and the beginning of a new year.

### 3rd - 12th October - Navratri

Navratri is a festival which is celebrated for 9 nights. During this time, Hindus fast and worship all 9 incarnations of Goddess Durga. They celebrate for 9 days by performing traditional Hindu folk dancing.

### 6th October-Harvest

Harvest is celebrated to give thanks for the crops, which have been safely harvested. Christians thank God for the food during Harvest. People also collect food for a Harvest collection. This food is passed onto families who are struggling.

### 10th October -World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day is celebrated to raise awareness of mental health, both positive and negative, and give people strategies to deal with any types of mental health they may face.

### 31st October – Halloween

All Hallows' Eve falls on 31st October each year, and is the day before All Hallows' Day, also known as All Saints' Day.

# OCTOBER

# 2024

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### 1st November - Diwali

Diwali is a five-day festival celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains around the world Diwali means 'rows of lighted lamps'. Diwali is known as the 'festival of lights' because it celebrates new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. During Diwali, houses, shops and public places are decorated with small oil lamps called 'diyas'.

### 11th November - Remembrance Sunday

This day marks the very day that World War One ended in 1918. We hold a two-minute silence at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month to remember those who have died in any conflict. We also remember the sacrifice these soldiers made to protect our country.

### 11-15th November - Anti Bullying Week

Anti-bullying week is an annual UK event held to raise awareness of the impacts of bullying on children and young people. We highlight ways of preventing and responding to bullying. This year, the goal is to emphasise the collective responsibility required to stop bullying.

### 15th November - Children in Need

Children in Need raises funds to help local charities and projects which positively impact children and young people across the UK.

# NOVEMBER

# 2024

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Lest we forget.







### 25th December-Christmas Day

Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of their religion. Christians across the world get together with their loved ones, share a meal, exchange presents and have fun.

### 25th - 2nd Jan December-Hanukkah

This is a Jewish festival, lasting eight days. It celebrates the victory of the Maccabees over the larger Syrian army. It also celebrates a miracle that happened during this time, where just a day's supply of oil allowed the menorah (Hanukkiah or Hanukkah Menorah) in the rededicated Temple in Jerusalem to remain lit for eight days.

# DECEMBER 2024

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### 1st January- New Years Day

New Year's Day is celebrated on 1st January in most of the countries around the world, as most countries follow the Gregorian calendar. However, in some countries like China, New Year's Day, or the first day of the New Year, is celebrated according to their own calendar rather than the Gregorian calendar.

### 14th January-Makar Sankranti

This festival is dedicated to the Hindu religious sun god Surya. The Makar Sankranti festival marks the beginning of the harvest season when new crops are worshipped and shared with delight.

### 14th -17th January-Pongal

This is the Tamil New Year festival, celebrated by the cooking of new rice. It is a celebration to thank the Sun, Mother Nature and the various farm animals that help to contribute to a beautiful harvest.

### 19th January-World Religion Day

Celebration of the oneness of religion and its role in human society. It encourages interfaith understanding and respect for all religions across the world.

### 29th January -Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year, or the Spring Festival, is the most important celebration observed in China, with cultural and historic significance. The festival signals the beginning of spring, and the start of a new year according to the Chinese lunar calendar.

# JANUARY 2025

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A vibrant night scene featuring a city skyline reflected in water, with numerous colorful fireworks exploding in the dark sky. The text "Happy New Year" is written in a large, white, bubbly, cursive font across the center of the image. The background shows a city with illuminated buildings and a bridge, with the lights reflecting on the water. The fireworks are in various colors, including red, green, and yellow, creating a festive atmosphere.

Happy  
New  
Year





### 1st February-World Hijab Day

World Hijab Day is observed every year on February 1 to honour Muslim women who wear the hijab. It is also a day to urge women of various origins and beliefs to try on the hijab and see what it is like to wear it. Muslim women maintain their modesty by wearing the hijab.

### 3th -9th February-Children's Mental Health Week

Children's mental health week takes place to put emphasis on mental health in children. It highlights how we can support children and how they can support themselves from a young age to ensure negative mental health doesn't impact them greatly in later life.

### 6th February-Time to talk day

Time to talk day is the nation's biggest mental health conversation. It takes place to bring people together to talk about mental health and allow people to be listened to. It is a globally recognised day of awareness.

### Around 28th February-Ramadhan begins

Ramadhan is a holy month that involves sacrifice. Allah has asked all Muslims who are of a certain age (teenager onwards) and with good health to fast from dawn to dusk.. Muslims fast so that they remember those less fortunate than themselves.

# FEBRUARY

## 2025

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### 4th March-Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

### 5th March -17thApril -Lent

Lent is a period of 40 days during which Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ, whose life and teachings are the foundation of Christianity.

### 8th March-International Women's Day

International Women's Day is a day to celebrate and recognise the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women around the world.

### 14th March 2023-Holi

Holi is a colourful festival celebrated by Hindus. It is a way of celebrating Spring and is also seen as a new beginning.

### Around 27th March (Dependent on the moon)-Laylat al Qadr

This is the holiest night for Muslims as this is the night where the Holy Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad.

### Around 30th March (Dependant on the moon)-Eid ul Fitr

Eid ul Fitr is celebrated as a joyous day for all Muslims around the world. Muslims have completed 29/30 days of fasting and this day has been given by Allah to celebrate the hard work of fasting.

### 30th March-Mother's Day

Mother's Day is a day that focuses on celebrating and honouring mothers and maternal figures for all they do.



# MARCH 2025

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## 2nd April-World Autism Day

World Autism Awareness Week aims to increase the awareness of autism and the different ways it can affect people's lives.

## 14th April-Vaisakhi

Vaisakhi is a special day celebrated by Sikhs, It started as a harvest festival in the Punjabi region of northern India. It also celebrates the creation of the Khalsa order.

## 14th April-Tamil New Year

This is the first day of the new Tamil calendar. This special day is also known as Puthuvarudam or Varsha Pirappu.

## 20th April-Easter Sunday

This is a day where Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. Many people buy Easter eggs or enjoy an Easter hunt. Just like a chick is born from an egg, Christians believe Jesus was also born again by God.

## 21st April-Easter Monday

Christians believe three days after Jesus' Crucifixion, Christ was resurrected from the dead. This day also marks the end of Lent.



# APRIL

# 2025

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### 5th-11th May -Deaf Awareness Week

Deaf Awareness Week is an annual event aimed to raise awareness. This week aims to raise awareness of the isolation that deaf people can occasionally experience, and promote the importance of social inclusion around the deaf community.

### 17th May-

### International day against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia

Founded in 2004, this aims to raise awareness of violence and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people to drive positive change.

# MAY

# 2025

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### 15th June-Fathers Day

Father's day acknowledges our appreciation of the role of the father, both at home and in society. On Father's Day, people usually express their appreciation for their dad or for a special man in their life by sending a card, having a family meal or by giving a present.

### 15th-21st June-Refugee Week

Refugee Week is the UK's largest festival that celebrates the contributions of refugees. It aims to promote a better understanding of why people seek sanctuary away from their homelands.

### Around 4th-9th June -Hajj

Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam. God has asked all Muslims to visit the Holy city of Makkah at least once in their life to complete a religious ritual that lasts for a period of 5 days. Muslims all over the world gather to perform the different rituals together.

### Around 6th-10th June Eid al Adha

Eid al-Adha, also known as the Greater Eid, is an important Muslim festival which lasts for four days. It's worth mentioning that there are two Eids in the Hijri (Islamic) calendar and they shouldn't be confused. The first one is Eid al-Fitr, which is celebrated at the end of Ramadan. Eid al-Adha is the second one and it's known as the greater of the two Eids.

# JUNE 2025

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### 18th July - 17th August-South Asian Heritage Month

South Asian history month (SAHM) explores the shared cultures and history of the UK and South Asia. SAHM exists in order to commemorate, make and celebrate South Asian history and culture as, as well as better understand the diverse heritage that continues to link the UK to South Asia.

### 30th July - International Day of Friendship

International Day of Friendship seeks to promote the role that friendship plays across all cultures. To mark this special day, people hold special events that promote reconciliation, mutual understanding, and solidarity.

# JULY 2025

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## 9h August-Raksha Bandhan

This is a special day celebrated by Hindus, where sisters tie a special band around their brothers called a 'Rakhi'. The rakhi symbolises protection and love for their brother. When the sisters do this, they receive a gift from their brothers.



# AUGUST 2025

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