

Black History 2022



The theme for Black History Month 2022 is **'Time for Change: Action Not Words.'**

To get to a better tomorrow, we can't just focus on the past. The past is in the past. We can acknowledge and learn from it, but to improve the future, we need action, not words. We need to come together around a shared common goal to achieve a better world for everyone.

This year's Black History Month in October is more important than ever. It's not just a month to celebrate the continued achievements and contributions of Black people to the UK and around the world. It's also a time for continued action to tackle racism, reclaim Black history, and ensure Black history is represented and celebrated all year round.

These resources can be used to integrated Black History into the ethos and cultures of your communities throughout the year.

9 ways to incorporate Black History in your schools, churches and locally communities

1. Highlight the importance of psychological safety

You may have already planned some curriculum content around Black History Month, looking at cultural or historical Black figures. The resources shared here

focus on mental health themes, helping school staff to explore ideas around diversity, self-belief, identity and the impact of racism on those who experience it. Suitable for primary schools, secondary school and FE settings. ([Black History Month resources : Mentally Healthy Schools](#))

2. Celebrate the achievements of Black Britons

Of course, you can share biographies of ‘famous’ Black Britons such as Idris Elba, Alex Scott and Lenny Henry, but why not challenge your students to do their own research on a well-known Black figure from history or the modern day and produce a piece of art, prose, fact-file, video or presentation? Get students actively engaged rather than passively absorbing information. The Black History Month website is a useful tool for information and profiles on a variety of people and events and includes some very cool resources.

3. Use creative writing and storytelling to explore Black British history and experience.

Learning about the experiences of Black British people can help students understand about racism, issues surrounding implicit bias and systematic racism. One way to explore these themes and key events from history is through a proactive and engaged approach such as using creative writing and poetry. The British Library have some fantastic resources to prompt creative writing on the topic of Windrush for Primary students and Secondary students. For new reading material, check out these authors:

[Sharna Jackson](#) (YA)

[Alex Wheatle](#) (YA)

[Jamila Gavin](#) (KS3 / KS4)

[Dapo Adeola](#) (KS1 / KS2)

4. Celebrate the achievements of your Black Alumni

Did you know that your alumni are much more than just a ‘database’ and can actively help your school and current students in many ways both inside and outside of the classroom? Your former students could be an untapped resource full of wisdom and expertise that they’re willing to impart to their younger counterparts. They just need to be asked. Why not consider inviting your Black former students back to the classroom to talk about their lived experience, offer guidance and advice and motivation for the next generation?

5. Do an inclusivity audit – showcase Black voices

In 2020 a report was published on the [representation of ethnicity in children’s literature in the UK](#). The results weren’t great; 7% of the children’s books published

in the UK over the last 3 years featured characters of colour – this in comparison to the 33.5% of children attending school who are from a minority background.

We know that it's easy to simply turn to the same books in our school libraries or reading corners that we've used again and again, or pick the same film to show, but Black History Month presents us with the opportunity to question our 'go to' texts and media and really think about who is telling whose story, to whom, and why?

Puffin's lists of books on [teaching Black history](#) and The National Literacy Trust's [lists of texts](#) that exemplify the principles of the Black Lives Matter Movement are a great place to start. Into Film have put [this list](#) of films together for Black History Month; your music lessons can get a revamp while you and your students explore the [history of blues and rag time](#) or even [calypso music](#) in Britain; consider showcasing diversity in your science lessons by showing students [this video](#) and why not use the opportunity to explore Black History through Food Tech. The options are endless...

6. Don't forget the Black Lives Matter movement

Black History Month is a living, evolving thing – the murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement is an example of history in the making and shouldn't be ignored.

Black Lives Matter explained: The History of a Movement
<https://youtu.be/YG8GjLLbbvs>

You have hopefully already started the conversation with your students, but October really is a good opportunity to set aside some time to look at the wider picture and discuss societies progress and areas of concern with your classes.

Check out these free TES resources for [11-14 year olds](#) and [14-16 year olds](#).

7. Don't confine Black History Month to... Black History Month

Black History Month is an opportunity to look at the curriculum as a whole, diversifying texts and material for the academic year ahead. It's also a good time to look at your promotional material – are all ethnicities represented in your photographs, prospectuses, and websites? The resources used in your classroom? Use the tips in this blog throughout the year – not just in October and check out this Guardian article by English teacher and columnist, Lola Okolosie, on [how schools can improve their race relations right now](#).

8. Be creative and explore the importance of Identity

What does Identity mean?

Examine and explore what identity is and how society shapes one's perception of identity; examine the historical roots of race and identity and the way it presents itself today examine and explore the influence of identity on ones personal and professional behaviours so Leaders can collective shape schools where all can see themselves and have a sense of belonging.

View the world we imagine [Learning - The World Reimagined](#)

CEFEL can support leaders explore Identity and Belong through our PSN. To learn more email lorraine.prince Head of Networks for The Church of England Foundation of Educational lorraine.prince@churchofengland.org

9. Connect with your Diocese or local parish.

What does it mean to belong?

The Diocese of Chichester held a celebration and recognition event on Saturday 8th October, to mark Black History Month. This was held within a Eucharist service celebrated by The Bishop of Chichester, The Rt Revd Dr Martin Warner. With guest speakers: The Revd Les Isaac OBE, Rosemarie Davidson-Gotobed, Bola-Alysia Ayonrinde and contributions from students at Steyning Grammar school and The Zinafe Choir.

The wisdom, inspiration and reflections shared were incredibly empowering, alongside the commissioning of Racial Justice Officers and Junior Ambassadors!



