

## Integrated Education Month - March 2021

#togetherIEM2021

Together

#IEM2021

Given the global events of the past year, we want to use IEM 2021 as a platform to celebrate the ways that we have found to be **together**, despite the challenges we have faced.

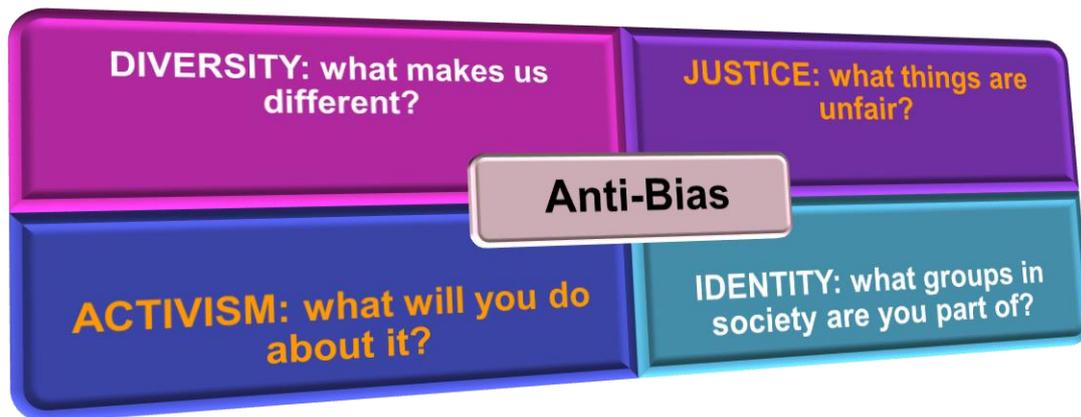
For the past few years, NICIE Teachers' Committee have developed resources for teachers and pupils to inspire you to celebrate IEM. This year we are promoting IEM 2021 a bit differently... we want to encourage you to use the incredible creativity that you have all demonstrated in the last year to celebrate **togetherness** during March 2021, Integrated Education Month.

### *Some suggestions:*

- 2021 is the **40th Anniversary of Integrated Education** and the opening of the first Integrated School in NI, could you work together with another Integrated school (or a school close to you that is thinking about becoming Integrated) to celebrate being part of that special family?
- Perhaps pupils and staff/families could work together to create a local history project about what was happening in your community 40 years ago. Older people's stories are powerful reminders that we have made progress in building peace and reconciliation, even though some days it doesn't feel like it!
- **Integrated Alumni** are a collection of past pupils of Integrated schools. They may be able to host an on-line meeting to bring pupils together and talk about the difference of being in an Integrated school makes. Pupils leaving Integrated schools often comment that they didn't realise how different their experience of education was until after they have left school – we only know what we know!

<https://www.integratedalumni.org/>

The new **Anti-Bias in Education** publication will be available in March 2021. The online version is fully interactive, and has lots of ideas, links to resources and other thinking tools to inspire you. Find the publication and other resource pages on [NICIE's website](#). If you have trouble finding these online, please email Lynn: [ljohnston@nicie.org.uk](mailto:ljohnston@nicie.org.uk) (we are in the process of building a new website, please bear with us!).



### Community

What can you do to show togetherness with your school **community** and the wider community? Is there a justice issue or a theme that the whole school community can take a stand together on throughout the month – such as sectarianism?

### Pandemic

Work with others to **reflect** on all the things that have brought us together over the past year. New use of online tools, clapping for the NHS, forming bubbles, zoom and so on. Ask pupils to create something – a word, picture, statement about the pandemic. You could bring these together to create word clouds (try <http://www.edwordle.net/>) or a collage (try <https://www.canva.com/create/photo-collages/>). This will draw out similarities and differences that can be discussed. Perhaps you can keep these secure and review them with pupils in the future?

How did your school live out the Integrated ethos during the pandemic? Think about all the things that build togetherness and kept connections with family, community, and school. Perhaps the necessity of connecting more closely with parents has changed how the school relates to families? Could this be a theme of celebration throughout the month? Could you take time out with your colleagues to be together online - to reflect on the year and what it has meant for you at home and at work?

### Remember to... promote IEM2021!

**As we all know, the use of social media is the most powerful marketing tool any school community has. Use #IEM2021 to blow your trumpet!**

**Please tag IEF and NICIE in your posts and we will share as many as we can.**