



Belong To LGBTQ+ Youth Ireland

Activities and Actions for Stand Up Awareness Week



Stand Up Awareness Week Activity Ideas

Looking for inspiration? Read some of our activity ideas below or take a look at the Gallery of Ideas within this resource to see some of the wonderful actions undertaken by schools, youth services and Youthreach centres across Ireland in the past number of years!

Launch your LGBTQ+ and Allies Club

Stand Up Awareness Week is the perfect time to launch your LGBTQ+ and Allies Club, or to let young people know about your plans to set one up. Hosting a school assembly where staff and young people talk about the club, what you do, and how to join is a great way to spread the word to those who might feel nervous about asking for this information themselves. Already have an LGBTQ+ and Allies Club set up? Stand Up Awareness Week is the perfect time to share all of your wonderful work so far with staff and young people! Learn more about setting up an LGBTQ+ and Allies Club via [our website](#) →.

Rainbow Walkway

Across Ireland, lots of towns and cities have painted wonderful rainbow walkways to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community. These walkways are a sign that LGBTQ+ people are respected and celebrated in that community. Is there somewhere on your grounds or in your building where you could create your own rainbow walkway? Create the walkway with paint or chalk at your entrance gate, or decorate a corridor, hall or front door with rainbow colours to show that your school, Youthreach centre or youth service is LGBTQ+ inclusive.

Connect to the Curriculum

Including LGBTQ+ identities and experiences in the curriculum is a great way to sustain LGBTQ+ inclusion year-round. Young people's work on LGBTQ+ themes can be displayed in your library, hall or entrance. Our **Junior Cycle curriculum resources** suggest ways to make a range of subjects, such as science, maths, history and geography, LGBTQ+ inclusive →.

Rainbow Jumper Day

Create a rainbow flag! Encourage everyone to wear a jumper making up the colours of the rainbow flag: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple for Belong To's Rainbow Jumper Day. Don't forget to take some photos and share them with us!



Hold Your Own Spill the Tea Event



Pop the kettle on and support LGBTQ+ young people across Ireland! Get everyone together for a morning to raise some vital funds for Belong To – LGBTQ+ Youth Ireland. Have a bake sale, or if you're feeling competitive, why not host a bake off? Holding your Spill the Tea event is a wonderful chance to connect with everyone in your school community, including parents/guardians, siblings, members of your Board of Management and more. You can use the event to share the importance of allyship and most importantly have fun, all the while supporting our life-saving services at Belong To. Visit our **online hub** to get your Spill the Tea fundraising pack with everything you'll need to make your event fabulous ➔.

Raise Funds

Through our frontline supports, youth groups, training and advocacy, Belong To works to create an Ireland where all LGBTQ+ young people are equal, safe and thriving. There are lots of ways to support our services during Stand Up Awareness Week, such as asking students to contribute €2 for Rainbow Jumper Day, holding a rainbow raffle, or running an LGBTQ+ themed bake sale. For a fundraising pack, contact Chris (he/him) from our Fundraising Team: fundraising@belongto.org or 01 670 6223.

Read the Rainbow

Stand Up Awareness Week is a great time to launch a new or updated LGBTQ+ library section in your school, Youthreach centre or youth service. This could include young people suggesting LGBTQ+ novels they have enjoyed or would like to read. The 'Rainbow Reads' list, put together by Children's Books Ireland and An Post, is another great place for inspiration. The list categorises a wide range of LGBTQ+ books by age group, and is available at our **online education hub** ➔.

Pride Noticeboard

Choose a dedicated noticeboard, whiteboard or wall to display messages of LGBTQ+ inclusivity year-round. This can include details of your local LGBTQ+ youth group, contact details for LGBTQ+ support services such as Belong To, and the names of staff members leading on wellbeing, guidance and LGBTQ+ inclusivity. During Stand Up Awareness Week, invite allies to sign their name on the Pride noticeboard or to leave messages of support and solidarity for the LGBTQ+ community.



Timetable of Events

There are endless possibilities for activities you could plan for Stand Up Awareness Week. We have put together a sample timetable for how you might fit them in to your week:



Monday

Kick off Stand Up Awareness Week with an announcement for the whole school about what it is all about. Invite some young people and allies to talk about the Stand-Up Awareness Week theme. If you have a flagpole, you could arrange a raising of the Progress Pride flag as an opening ceremony.

Tuesday

It's time to get visible! How can you create an environment that is clearly LGBTQ+ inclusive? Get creative and decorate prominent noticeboards to create a welcoming and diverse school environment.

Wednesday

Bring in a guest speaker to talk about LGBTQ+ topics and the importance of allyship, or show videos in class on the topic. Invite staff and young people who identify as allies to participate.

Thursday

Whisk up some delicious treats and host a rainbow bake sale! Belong To is a charity offering life-saving support services to LGBTQ+ youth across Ireland. Consider donating the funds raised to this great cause.

Friday

Create a rainbow flag! Encourage everyone to wear a jumper making up the colours of the rainbow flag: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple for Belong To's Rainbow Jumper Day. Don't forget to take some photos and share them as part of our #SubmitIt campaign!

Gallery of Ideas

Draw inspiration for activity ideas from previous Stand Up Awareness Week participants!



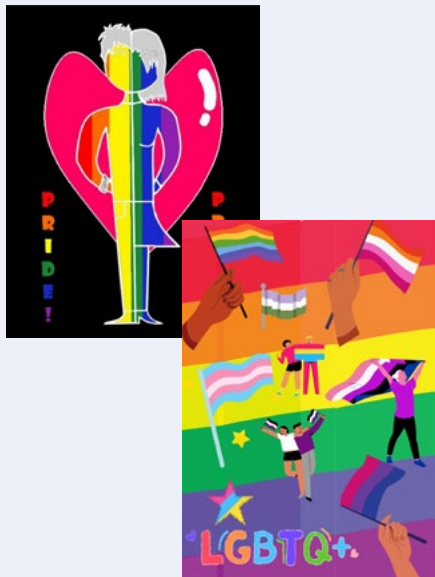
LGBTQ+ noticeboard with QR code for information and helplines at Mount St. Michael, Cork.



Students spelling out the LGBTQ+ acronym at St. David's CBS, Dublin.



Rainbow bake sale at Scariff Community College, Clare.



Stand Up Awareness Week posters created during coding class at St. Mark's Community College, Dublin.



LGBTQ+-themed make up and non-uniform day at Deansrath Community College, Dublin.



Friendship-themed rainbow art collages at Banagher College, Offaly.



Rainbow Jumper Day at St Oliver Post Primary, Meath.



'Safe place' rainbow stickers for LGBTQ+ student allies at Coláiste Choilm, Cork.



Students raising the Pride flag at De La Salle College, Louth.

Activity Focus: Setting up an LGBTQ+ and Allies Club

Setting up an LGBTQ+ and Allies Club

The young people who supported you in organising Stand Up Awareness Week might be interested in continuing their LGBTQ+ advocacy. LGBTQ+ and Allies Clubs bring young people together to have fun, connect, receive support and campaign to make positive changes about issues important to them.

LGBTQ+ and Allies Clubs can be a powerful tool for providing safe spaces for LGBTQ+ students and their allies, and each school's LGBTQ+ and Allies Club is likely to be unique.



How to Set up your LGBTQ+ and Allies Club


Nominate an Advisor or an Advisory Group

Each LGBTQ+ and Allies Club should have a member of staff acting as advisor for the group. The advisor will help facilitate the starting up and maintenance of the club, supporting the members where necessary to keep things running smoothly. The member of staff can rotate weekly, biweekly or monthly.

Spread the Word

The best way to get the word out is to let other staff and students know about the club so you can welcome your first members. This can be done through assemblies, form meetings or posters around the school. Also creating a unique name for the club is a fun and exciting way to get the members working together.

Prepare for Meetings

Set an agenda and publicise your meeting. Think about the best way to reach young people (flyers, classroom announcements, social media). Check out our **online hub**  for tips on how to host a successful meeting.

Who to Include in your LGBTQ+ and Allies Club

The short answer is everyone who is open to creating a safe and supportive space for LGBTQ+ students. It is important to make the staff and students aware that allies are welcome as they are an important part of creating a supportive environment. By including both LGBTQ+ students and allies, young people who are not yet 'out' as LGBTQ+ can take part without feeling pressure to tell others that they are members of the LGBTQ+ community.

When and Where to Run your LGBTQ+ and Allies Club

As every LGBTQ+ and Allies Club is unique, it is about finding the best time for you. This may be during lunch once a week or after school. The club should take place in a space that feels comfortable and accessible for all. You may like to design the room with some posters or positive imagery relating to LGBTQ+ people or topics.

Activities within your LGBTQ+ and Allies Club

Some of the most important activities and roles that your LGBTQ+ and Allies Club may play are listed below:

Support

LGBTQ+ and Allies Clubs provide a safe space for students who are facing challenges with their identity, or are facing bullying and harassment because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. A way to begin each meeting to help everyone feel supported and safe is to share your name, pronouns and how everyone is feeling.

Social

LGBTQ+ and Allies Clubs help students who are LGBTQ+ or questioning form social connections and community with each other in a safe, accepting space. These clubs help to reduce the sense of isolation that LGBTQ+ youth can sometimes feel. With each meeting you can create a space to brainstorm ideas for projects to undertake or activities to partake in.

Activism

LGBTQ+ and Allies Clubs can allow students to get together to take action to improve their school and community for LGBTQ+ students. They may focus on educating teachers, parents and students; engaging with school policies and procedures; and getting involved with local and national LGBTQ+ campaigns.

Learn more about setting up a LGBTQ+ and Allies Club in our **online education hub** !



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