



Australian Government  
Department of Home Affairs

# HARMONY WEEK

## Event Planning Kit for Schools

Ideas, tips and tools for planning to celebrate Harmony Week in your school

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Promote your school's event online and through social media—check out our [Online Promotion Kit for Schools](#) for tips.



## What is Harmony Week?

Harmony Week is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community. Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it.

The message of Harmony Week is **everyone belongs**.

It is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

Schools have always been Harmony Week's greatest supporters. We have created this kit to help make celebrating Harmony Week easier for you.

The best way for your class or school to celebrate is to hold an event and register it on the Harmony Week website.

For a school, an event or celebration can be as simple as a lesson plan with a diversity focus or something larger like a whole of school assembly or concert. These celebrations create opportunities for all of us to think, talk about and recognise how our differences make Australia a great place to live.

### Did you know?

- Nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was.
- We identify with over 300 ancestries.
- Since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia.
- 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia.
- Apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi.
- More than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia.

These facts are taken from ABS 2016 Census Data. Check out the [Australian Bureau of Statistics website](http://www.abs.gov.au).



## Let's get started

This simple checklist will help you to plan, promote and celebrate your school's Harmony Week event and any associated activities. All the information you need to complete this checklist can be found in this kit.

	<b>Planning your celebration</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you chosen your Harmony Week event?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you told everyone who will be involved in planning your event?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you developed ideas for classroom activities?
	<b>Making it official</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you registered your celebration on the Harmony Week website?
	<b>Making some noise</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you consulted the online promotion kit for schools?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the Harmony Week web badge on your website?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there Harmony Week graphics on your web pages and/or intranet?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are staff using the Harmony Week email signature blocks?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is your event being promoted through social media?
	<b>Getting some resources</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you downloaded lesson plans, ideas and activities?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you using the Recipes for Harmony resources?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you looked at the other available Harmony Week resources?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you using the Harmony Week key messages?
	<b>Connecting with us</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you connected with us through social media?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you subscribed to our mailing list?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you visited our website for more information and resources?



## Plan your celebration

Celebrating Harmony Week can take any form you wish — big or small.

### Whatever you choose to do, an event should:

- celebrate your school's cultural diversity
- be held during Harmony Week (check the website for Harmony Week dates)
- be registered on the Harmony Week website.

## Event ideas

Here's some suggestions for ways you can celebrate Harmony Week in your classroom and throughout your school.

### Spread the word

Ask your students to share on social media the great things they do when they come together by using #harmonyweek and #everyonebelongs. They could use the sentence '**Everyone belongs at our school, because...**'. There's a special frame in the **Resources** section of our website for you to download and print. Ask your students to write their message in this and share your photos with us.

### Multicultural festival

Hold a mini-festival. Staff and students can bring food, put on a cultural performance or dance and share interesting facts about their own cultural backgrounds. If there is a local cultural dance troop you might like to invite them to perform.

### Cultural champions

Ask students to develop and present a short biography of someone from a diverse cultural background who has contributed to Australian life and society, or who embodies the ideas of inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging. This could be anyone from an artist to a politician, a sports star or an actor. Students can present their biographies in a range of forms, from PowerPoints and oral presentations to posters and short videos.

### Make your own promotional materials

Encourage students to use the Key Messages below to come up with a promotional plan for your Harmony Week event and/or activities. Ask students to reflect these key messages with visual images to make posters for display around your school, or even content for your website. Make sure you show us your materials by sending them to [harmonyweek@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:harmonyweek@homeaffairs.gov.au).

### Harmony Week photography competition

Challenge your students to capture images around your school which they feel represent the idea of diversity, or which capture key moments of your Harmony Week preparations and celebrations. Share these on social media using #harmonyweek and #everyonebelongs, and make sure to send us your favourite images at [harmonyweek@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:harmonyweek@homeaffairs.gov.au).

### Harmony Week Poster and Song Writing Competition

Why not enter the Harmony Week Poster and Song Writing competition? Each year the competition attracts thousands of entries and brings out the creativity and passion of schools students motivated by a desire for a peaceful and inclusive society. The competition is open to all primary and secondary students across NSW and ACT. For more information on the competition visit <http://movingforwardtogether.org.au/>.



## Musical celebration

Ask students to find examples of traditional and contemporary music from around the world and present them to the class. Students may also be interested in finding examples of musical influences and instruments from different cultures in some of their favourite music.

## Cultural dress

Encourage your class to wear their traditional cultural dress for Harmony Week. Children who do not have a cultural dress or want another option can wear orange. Encourage parents to get involved and, with their child, speak to the class about their cultural background (e.g. the meaning behind the cultural dress, foods, greetings or sayings in other languages).

## Focus on a country

Pick a country and encourage play-based learning by trying to learn a game, song and/or greeting from that country. Print pictures of the country's terrain, cultural dress and foods and discuss these with the class.

## Decorate your classroom

Dress your classroom up in orange for the month of March. We have some [great online resources](#) that will work well with the promotional products you will receive when you [register your event](#) on the website. Another great idea is to use a large world map and mark on the map countries that are represented in your classroom.

## Grandparents in Harmony

You might like to invite student's grandparents to visit your class and share their migration stories or family histories. Students could also be asked to write a piece about their families' history.

## Throw to the kids

Ask the class to break into small groups and brainstorm how their class or school can celebrate Harmony Week. Older primary school students could also be in charge of providing regular updates to the school newsletter.

## Assembly

Hold a Harmony Assembly with your whole school. Recognise any students who have worked hard to be inclusive and live the 'everyone belongs' message every day. Check out the [Resources](#) section of this kit for a link to certificates.

## Art show

Invite local diverse artists (this can include painting, pottery, beading, etc.) to create artworks with children using techniques and styles from their background. Hold an art show one evening for families to get involved.

## Creative competition

Hold a competition with your class or school where children develop creative works based on their understanding of why Harmony Week is important and what it means. Encourage students to explore the



concepts of Harmony Week and diversity through a poem, short story or artwork. The **Resources** section of this kit has a link to certificates that could be awarded to the winners.

### School scavenger hunt

Set up a Harmony Week scavenger hunt in your school by identifying 10 items and places that represent multicultural Australia. Provide a map to your students and ask them to find items and places that represent something multicultural.

### Make it official

Register your celebration on the [Harmony Week](#) website. It's easy and you will receive free promotional products to help decorate your classroom and school e.g. balloons, stickers, ribbons, bookmarks, etc.

Our products run out fast, so register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

### Make some noise

Using social media and online channels is a simple way to let your school community know about your Harmony Week event and how they may be able to get involved and support your students.

We've taken the guesswork out and created an [Online Promotion Kit for Schools](#).

## Resources

We have developed a range of resources to help you celebrate Harmony Week. From videos and lesson plans to eBooks and certificates, check out the below when planning your Harmony Week activity.

### Lesson plans, ideas and activities

- We have developed some [online lesson plans](#), ideas and activities aimed at early childhood, primary and lower secondary schools.

### Recipes for Harmony

- [Recipes for Harmony](#) brings the world to children, introducing them to amazing people, cultures and foods in an interactive and educational way.
- The online resource features recipes, cultural profiles and personal stories from every-day and high profile Australians such as AFL player Bachar Houli and Masterchef contestant Alice Zaslavsky.
- A helpful [teacher's resource](#) provides example lesson plans, work sheets, ice breaker and other classroom activities.

### Videos

- Over the years we have developed some short [videos](#) to help raise awareness of Harmony Week and the benefits of cultural diversity. You might like to share one or more of these videos with your class to help increase their understanding and reinforce their learning.



## Do-it-yourself Harmony Week products for kids

- The [DIY Harmony Week products](#) are great for early childhood and early primary school children. They are simple art and craft activities to help your class get excited about celebrating Harmony Week. For more products to help you decorate your classroom or school, [register your event](#) and promotional products.

## Certificates

- Certificates are a great way to recognise students who embrace newcomers and live the message of 'everyone belongs' every day. We've developed a [certificate](#) that you might like to use and present students with at an assembly.

## Infographics, web graphics and shareables

- We have developed some images to share on your website or on social media. For more information on these resources and how to use them, see our [Online Promotion Kit for Schools](#).

## Key messages

- Join us to celebrate Australia's cultural diversity this Harmony Week.
- Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.
- It's a time to reflect on the importance of respecting each other and our differences.
- Australia's success as a multicultural nation is underwritten by our values, our mutual understanding of our rights and responsibilities as citizens and national language and our respect for each other.
- Our shared Australian values of respect, equality and freedom go beyond our different cultures, and are what makes Australia such a great place to live.
- The message of respect and belonging can be lived by each of us, every day, not just during Harmony Week.
- Share the message of 'everyone belongs'.
- Visit the Harmony Week website to explore [resources](#), [register your event](#) or check out what's [already happening](#) in your area.
- We love to see how you celebrated - share your photos on social media using #harmonyweek and #everyonebelongs.
- Visit [harmony.gov.au](http://harmony.gov.au) for more information.





## Questions? Get in touch!

Questions about Harmony Week?

Email us at [harmonyweek@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:harmonyweek@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Don't forget to visit us at [harmony.gov.au](http://harmony.gov.au)

Connect with us!

Subscribe to our [mailing list](#) for regular updates.



**everyone BELONGS**  
**www.harmony.gov.au**

