



# Tips for Hosting an Intercultural Event

## Plan Well

The Diversity Committee should plan well in advance. Ensure the date does not clash with dates important to any cultural groups in your school.

## Intercultural not International Day

Make it an intercultural, rather than an international day. Intercultural includes cultural and ethnic groups within nation states - like Traveller, Roma, Igbo and Edo people, and religious groups like Catholics and Muslims. Exploring this with students and parents can help intercultural learning.

## Involve Parents / Grandparents & wider community

Invite parents and wider family to plan and take part in the event. They can share knowledge, stories, food, fashion, skills and expertise. Plan your event as part of a themed week that the school already celebrates like Friendship week (held in February) or International Day Against Racism (held in March).

Go here (<http://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/>) to find out more about International Days observed by the United Nations. (One World Week - <http://www.oneworldweek.org/v2/index.php?page=activities>)

## Promote the Event

Use local and social media to promote the event. Take pictures! Get it in to the school bulletin and local paper. Keep records for your Yellow Flag folder.

## Make it a Whole School Event

Use the event to remind everyone of the school ethos, launch the Diversity Code or the new Intercultural Policy. Showcase talents and intercultural learning projects that have taken place.

## Normalise Diversity

Celebrate traditional Irish culture and the different cultural heritage of the students in school. Get students talking about what makes a good intercultural event - how can people learn more about each other? How can we avoid being left with a one-dimensional view of that person or cultural group? Get people talking, interacting and playing together.

## Make it an Interactive Event

Get parents, students, teachers, families interacting and talking. Invite speakers. Share crafts, dance and music. Create ways for people to talk and listen to each other. Have fun!

## Get Feedback

Give out a simple evaluation sheet on the day for people to fill in and talk to students after the event. If the feedback is not all positive don't worry - it will be an opportunity for intercultural learning. It is better to invest your time in creating inter-cultural dialogue about what makes a good event, rather than just ploughing ahead with more events.