

Let's have a conversation!

Monthly dialogue with parents of Bal Bharatians on student-centric issues



Bal Bharati
PUBLIC SCHOOL

Dear Parent,

Every month, we seek views, ideas and suggestions from you, on various topics that are important for the progress and well-being of your child. Parents' inputs are invaluable in helping us shape the school's policies and practices to better serve the needs of our students.

Here we are featuring some of the thought-provoking responses to the topic of the month.

TOPIC

How can we promote diversity and inclusion in our school community, and what activities and events would support this effort?



The school community requires keen efforts to foster an environment where all students feel valued and respected. We can start by organising cultural exchange days, where students showcase their traditions, food, and customs. This allows them to celebrate their uniqueness while learning about others. Workshops on inclusion can help students understand the importance of acceptance. Also, forming student-led committees for various tasks can ensure that all students' voices are heard. Through activities like collaborative art projects or inclusive sports events, we can create a culture that celebrates differences and unites our school community.



Deepti Singhal, Mother of Ananya, Class VI, BBPS Brij Vihar

The school needs to foster an environment where every student feels valued and heard. One key initiative could be creating inclusive discussion forums where students can engage in conversations about gender equality, respect, and empathy, fostering a deeper understanding of one another. Introducing a buddy system could further promote inclusion by pairing students of different backgrounds, helping them learn from each other and form meaningful connections. Regular awareness campaigns and workshops led by teachers could also promote inclusivity and acceptance of differences.



Vikas Abrol, Father of Kashvi, Class XII, BBPS Dwarka

Promoting diversity and inclusion in our school can be achieved through:

1. Diversity clubs and organisations: Establish clubs and organisations that celebrate diverse cultures, identities, and interests.
2. Cultural events and celebrations: Host events and celebrations that showcase diverse cultures and traditions.
3. Diversity training for staff and students: Provide training for circumventing unconscious bias, microaggression, and promoting inclusive practices.
4. Safe spaces and support systems: Create safe spaces for students to share concerns and establish support systems for marginalised groups.
5. Parent and community engagement: Engage with diverse parents and community members to build partnerships and promote inclusivity.
6. Continuous assessment and improvement: Regularly assess and improve diversity and inclusion initiatives to ensure effectiveness.



Seema Dwivedi, Mother of Richa, Class V, BBPS Gadawara

The practice of diversity and inclusion in schools not only educates the children, but it also helps to imbibe equality and acceptance, which are often lacking in the society at large. Different activities can be undertaken to foster these values, such as celebrating cultural events of not only the major religions but minor ones as well. The school could encourage discussions regarding the importance of various festivals and assign activities to students that help them in understanding the diverse cultures of India. Along with religions, we have many cultural differences among various states of India, and we can familiarise students by introducing foods and attires of different states. Recently my daughter, Kyna, took part in the Unity in Diversity activity conducted by Bal Bharati Public School, Pusa Road, where she learnt about the key beliefs and practices of another religion, which was a great learning experience.



Vani Goel, Mother of Kyna, Class Pre-Primary, BBPS Gangaram

Our school community must aim to create an environment where every student feels accepted, valued, and is able to participate actively. To achieve this, several inclusive activities and events can be undertaken by the school such as:

- Collaborating with local organisations and community leaders to enhance inclusion efforts.
- Hosting a day where students can share and celebrate their cultures through food, performances, and displays.
- Facilitating student-led workshops or presentations where students educate their peers about different cultures, identities, and experiences.
- Setting up interactive cultural exchange activities where students can learn about and engage with different traditions and customs.
- Conducting regular surveys to gather feedback from students on their experiences and perceptions of inclusion in the school.
- Sharing success stories and positive examples of inclusion efforts within the school community.



By implementing the above, the school can build a more supportive environment where every student feels valued and included.

Meghnaben Parmar, Mother of Vanshrajsinh, Class Bal Vatika I, BBPS Jhanor

Our nation's culture celebrates 'Unity in Diversity', so being diverse is very much part of our nature. Celebrating festivals of NEWS (North, East, West, South) will help our children to understand and respect each other's culture. It is important for the school to create an inclusive environment, irrespective of culture, language and socio-economic status, and provide equal opportunity to all. Also, providing a joint platform for parents and children will help them in opening up about their views in a healthy way.



S. Kiruthika & N. Prasanth, Parents of P. Avani Pratheka, Class I, BBPS Khargone

Every student in your school or classroom is unique, and this fact alone is enough to encourage diversity in school cultures. However, teachers need to develop an understanding of their background. They need to find out if any students are struggling, or whether they get along with their peers. The school could conduct events which promote harmony and teamwork, so that all students get a chance to participate and showcase their hidden talents. It could announce a few 'Hidden Talents' every year, based on participation from students who have been shy and displayed minimal participation in the past. It could aim to create an environment where students and educators share how discrimination affects them on personal, classroom, school, and societal levels. By talking about diversity, both students and teachers will be able to embrace it with greater ease.



Payal Bisaria, Mother of Vedik, Class VII, BBPS Neelbad

An inclusive and diverse school community allows students to learn and grow in a supportive environment which is essential for their well-being and success. To achieve such an environment, it is important to:

1. Normalise discussion around biases and stereotypes.
2. Incorporate diversity into the curriculum. For example, by teaching students about different cultures, historical events, and perspectives, and helping them develop understanding and respect for all.
3. Encourage students to practise self-reflection.
4. Include families and members from the community to take on board their perspectives.

In an increasingly fragmented society, the ability to connect with peers, coworkers and neighbours with diverse backgrounds is invaluable. Diversity improves critical thinking skills, builds empathy and encourages students to think differently.

Shaily Sinha & Mausam Kumar, Parents of Aarush, Class VIII, BBPS Noida

Language is the most effective medium of promoting inclusive education and diversity in schools. Multilingual education provides ample scope for students to learn and speak a variety of languages and even promote their native language. Various activities can be planned to celebrate 'Traditional Days' in school, encouraging parent-child-teacher collaboration.



Mugdha Prashant Sansare, Mother of Eshwari, Class IX, BBPS Ratnagiri

Fostering an environment of diversity and inclusion in our school community is essential for creating a harmonious and vibrant atmosphere. To promote these values, it is crucial to celebrate and acknowledge the unique background, traditions, and perspective that each individual brings. Organising cultural exchange events, where students can share their traditions, music, and food, can greatly enhance understanding and respect among peers. Encouraging open dialogues through workshops and discussion panels on topics related to diversity can also foster empathy and awareness. Establishing clubs that focus on different cultural, social, and interest groups, can give students a sense of belonging and representation. Involving the whole school community - teachers, parents, and staff - in these activities can reinforce the message that everyone's voice matters.



Neelam Sharma, Mother of Devansh, Class VI, BBPS Solan

TOPIC FOR THE NEXT MONTH

Which life skills do you think are important for students to develop, and how can we incorporate them into our curriculum and daily routines?

Share with us your frank views about the topic. There is no correct or incorrect answer. All responses will help us in making the journey of our students more productive and joyful.