

Top 10 most popular No Outsiders assemblies 2023

I love the No Outsiders assemblies! I enjoy writing them every week and I enjoy delivering them wherever I am, at my own school or at another. These assemblies promote discussion, debate and acknowledgement that different ideas exist, and we don't have to agree with each other all the time. The images and stories open up the world to children; showing them real-life examples of diversity and inclusion that exist all around us. I often say in my training that I want children to leave my assemblies happy and reassured of their place in the world. The assemblies show children that we are all different and we all belong.

The No Outsiders assemblies are free to access and grow more popular with each year that passes. Schools can choose which assemblies they use (schools don't have to use them all every week) and there is an archive available with over 500 to choose from. As we leave 2023, here is a list of the top ten most-viewed assemblies on the No Outsiders website for the last 12 months, with links for each should people want to revisit or catch up.



10.

The 10th most popular assembly this year was written for KS2 and used an image of a gender-reveal to explore gender stereotypes. Opening with the question; “How do you think having a baby boy is different to having a baby girl?” we start the assembly with a debate encouraging children to think about their own views and experiences. As with all No Outsiders assemblies, we remind children there are no right or wrong answers here; we are looking for children to share ideas, listen respectfully and agree and disagree with each other. The assembly tells the story of a Mum expecting a baby girl and preparing by painting a nursery “girl colours” and buying pink clothes, only to find 6 weeks before giving birth that the baby was a boy. The mum talks about her shock because she had prepared for a girl. This story gives us a great opportunity to discuss gender stereotypes and whether stereotypes affect us.

KS2 assembly plan:

<https://no-outsiders-assembly.blogspot.com/2023/03/gender-stereotypes.html>



9.

Vitoria Bueno is 18 years old and a ballerina. She performs ballet in a different way because she has no arms. Vitoria says, “For me, arms, they are just a detail. I follow with my eyes as if they were there.”

We can use this inspirational story to ask young children to consider questions such as, ‘Can you be a ballerina if you have no arms?’; ‘If you heard someone say Vitoria couldn’t be a proper ballet dancer, how would you respond?’; ‘What can we learn about disability and about difference from this story?’

KS1 assembly plan: <https://ks1no-outsiders-assembly.blogspot.com/2023/03/ballerina.html>



8.

I remember finding this story and being overjoyed as it’s perfect for a KS1 No Outsiders assembly. The simple story tells of a Jack Russel called Teasel who took it upon herself to foster a family of abandoned kittens when they arrived at an animal shelter. This assembly gives us a fantastic opportunity to ask, ‘What is a family?’; ‘Do all families have to look the same?’. The discussion is then moved on as children are asked how they would respond if other dogs said Teasel shouldn’t be looking after the kittens because ‘that’s not what dogs do!’...

<https://ks1no-outsiders-assembly.blogspot.com/2023/11/family.html>



7.

Another KS1 assembly with a similar theme is the 7th most downloaded No Outsiders assembly of 2023 and this one is about a female rabbit and female cat who became inseparable in an animal shelter thus creating a new family. “What do we say at our school about different families? Are all families the same?”

KS1 assembly plan <https://ks1no-outsiders-assembly.blogspot.com/2023/04/family.html>



6.

This story explores Blackstock Street in north London, recognised as a street that represents the whole world. The images and descriptions provided in the plan give schools a fantastic opportunity to explore community cohesion in Britain today as real people from all over the world talk enthusiastically about living and working alongside each other in London in 2023. What is community cohesion, what are British Values? What is the Equality Act and how is that law related to this street? A perfect No Outsiders assembly!

KS2 assembly plan <https://no-outsiders-assembly.blogspot.com/2023/05/street.html>



5.

Loads of schools told me they loved this assembly. It's a great way to talk about disability and inclusion. The story focuses on Greece providing accessible beaches for wheelchair users. The differences in KS2 and KS2 versions of this assembly demonstrate how discussions are different in each key stage; the KS2 discussion encourages children to consider use of language use by a minister in Greece who says the ramps are for, "people with various problems", whereas the KS1 discussion does not introduce children to such language.

KS2 assembly <https://no-outsiders-assembly.blogspot.com/2023/06/beach.html>

KS1 assembly <https://ks1no-outsiders-assembly.blogspot.com/2023/06/beach.html>



4.

The numbers of downloads for this assembly, the fourth most popular in 2023, demonstrate schools are looking for ways to discuss Pride. The key to a No Outsiders ethos is that there is no 'celebrating'; schools do not have to celebrate Pride (of course, many schools do celebrate Price every year and that's fine too) but if we are preparing children for life in modern Britain, we need to be talking about Pride events when they happen. There is a difference between taking about/ leaning about something and celebrating it. This Pride assembly for KS2 children talks about the history of Pride events in the UK and asks children to consider if Prides are needed in 2023. The KS1 version link below) talks about different families. Contrasting these two assemblies show how No Outsiders assemblies work hard to be age appropriate in language and content.

KS2 assembly plan <https://no-outsiders-assembly.blogspot.com/2023/06/pride.html>

KS1 assembly plan <https://ks1no-outsiders-assembly.blogspot.com/2023/06/pride.html>



3.

I am so happy that this assembly is in the top 3! It's absolutely perfect for No Outsiders and really shows what we are trying to do. The story is about National Express bus driver Ranjit Singh who made a video where he sings about his work place to show friends living in India what his job was like. The video, which can be watched in the link, shows Ranjit and his work colleagues dancing around the bus depo and includes lines such as, "All the different countries and nations drive together as friends". It's like a community cohesion guide for children. Brilliant!

Assembly plan <https://no-outsiders-assembly.blogspot.com/2023/01/bus-driver.html>



2.

This KS1 assembly from October is the second most downloaded assembly of 2023 and it's beautiful, inspiring, heartwarming. The photo shows two football fans in a crowd; one is blind and the other is telling him what is going on so when a goal is scored they both celebrate together. It's a perfect example of No Outsiders because the fan is making sure his companion is not an outsider by finding a way for him to access the match. This is what No Outsiders is about – you may have to do things differently, but you are still welcome, you can still join in.

KS! Assembly plan <https://ks1no-outsiders-assembly.blogspot.com/2023/10/football.html>

1.



The most downloaded No Outsiders assembly of 2023 is this beautiful image from September. I remember finding this assembly and knowing straight away it was going to be the 'back to school' No Outsiders assembly. It's perfect for exploring difference and belonging and for schools to set out their expectations for the year ahead: at our school, everyone must feel welcome – how are we going to achieve that together?

KS1 assembly <https://ks1no-outsiders-assembly.blogspot.com/2023/09/giraffe.html>

Thanks to all everyone who has sent a potential assembly story to me over the last year – I love getting suggestions. Thanks also to all the schools and teachers who have given me feedback, retweeted or commented on twitter (X) – much appreciated.

Here's to 2024!

No Outsiders: Everyone different, everyone welcome by Andrew Moffat

https://www.amazon.co.uk/No-Outsiders-Everyone-Different-Welcome/dp/036789498X/ref=sr_1_1?crid=FDS5AP3GKV2Y&keywords=andrew+moffat&qid=1703877685&srefix=%2Caps%2C172&sr=8-1

www.no-outsiders.com

New No Outsiders scheme "No Outsiders: we belong here" published April 2024.