

DIVERSITY

Defined.



for Inclusion

All students are part of the school community, every learner matters equally

Inclusion in school education means that all students are part of the school community and that every learner matters equally.

These are not just the words that you see written on the school website or brochure, these are actions that schools take to make sure all learners are included and feel belonging among their peers and staff at the school. This then equips all students with the confidence to participate fully in their communities and society as a whole.

“ Inclusion needs to be embedded in all aspects of the school from curricula to pedagogy and teaching as well as broader school activities including social and extracurricular. ”



Written by **Suha Yassin**,
Head of Diversity, Equity &
Inclusion, Pearson.

UNICEF defines inclusive education as 'Every child has the right to quality education and learning'. So inclusion starts by recognising that all students are entitled to quality learning. One that respects diversity, enables full participation, and removes barriers and anticipates and considers a variety of different learning needs and preferences. Learners should not have to adapt to the education system, instead education systems should adapt to their needs.

“ When students are not fully embraced as part of the school community or meaningfully included in what they are learning, they are less likely to be engaged and learn and that is everyone’s loss. ”

What is worse is that exclusion does not only lead to less learning, but studies show how this can impact students’ mental health and wellbeing.

Inclusion is good for all students. The strategies that schools and teachers use to ensure students of marginalised backgrounds, identities, and circumstances in life can access learning and opportunities and can thrive are ultimately helpful to all students and this helps to promote tolerance and empathy among students. That makes inclusion a benefit for all.

Around 6 in 10 teachers



headteachers are planning to **diversify their curriculum topics to cover race/gender/disability** by 2024*

*Pearson School Report - April 2022.

Here are five strategies used in schools that can promote inclusion: Celebrate diversity across the full range of subjects and school activities; ensure teachers have the right support and tools to deal with diverse needs and are developing themselves and have a positive attitude towards inclusion; work with parents and local communities to break-down barriers and Centre the students in inclusion strategies, and continuously review and improve them.

Get involved by sharing your thoughts on what diversity in education means to you.

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#DiversityDefined