

# Benefits of being Culturally active



**Culture means different things to different people. Keeping connected to culture can provide social and emotional wellbeing benefits.**

Teaching students about their family or culture and language is a great way to be culturally active. In addition to this, taking part in cultural ceremonies and expressing culture in the arts are further ways we can connect.

Connecting to culture can increase feelings of belonging, and learning about other cultures can increase inclusion and empathy.

It's important for teachers to be culturally responsive as it allows them to celebrate students' differences, allows students to demonstrate their cultural strengths and helps to make students feel safe and included in their classrooms.

As well as continuously reflecting on understandings and practices, there are a number of strategies schools and classroom teachers can implement to ensure they are providing opportunities for students to be connected to their culture.



# Here are some suggestions on how to be culturally active at school:

## In the classroom

- Ensure lessons are culturally diverse and responsive:



[education.wa.edu.au/dl/jjpzned](https://education.wa.edu.au/dl/jjpzned)

- Reflect on culturally significant dates and celebrations:



[homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/multicultural-affairs/about-multicultural-affairs/calendar-of-cultural-and-religious-dates](https://homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/multicultural-affairs/about-multicultural-affairs/calendar-of-cultural-and-religious-dates)

- Read and watch stories on other cultures
- Celebrate differences and strengths of various cultures.
- Teach culture truthfully and factually.

## During break times

- Have food from different cultures available at the canteen at recess and lunch.
- Play music from other cultures.

## Whole of school

- Deliver an Acknowledgement of Country at the beginning of the day and before large school events:



[education.wa.edu.au/web/policies/-/welcome-to-country-and-acknowledgement-of-country-protocols](https://education.wa.edu.au/web/policies/-/welcome-to-country-and-acknowledgement-of-country-protocols)

- Provide a safe space for religious traditions (e.g. Ramadan)
- Acknowledge and celebrate cultures as a school (e.g. NAIDOC week, Chinese New Year, Diwali, etc. (links to cross-curriculum priorities).
- Introduce and use language from other countries around the school.
- Build a word wall of ways to say hello in other languages.
- Translate documents for culturally and linguistically diverse families.
- Invite families into the school and build positive relationships and understanding of other cultures.
- Partner with local cultural organisations and invite them into the school.
- Display artwork from various cultures.

