



# VALENTINE'S DAY



## EXPLORING VALENTINE'S DAY IN THE PAST, PRESENT AND WHAT WE HOPE IT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE!

### PAST

*Written by Connor Yr 11*

For centuries members of LGBTQ+ community have been oppressed, killed, tortured and more. It's only in recent years that our fellow citizens of this country have been accepted for who they are. Today homophobia is still a large problem in our society, each year we hear at least once the tragic news that a same sex couple was killed for simple reasons like loving each other. Thankfully, although these twisted crimes against humanity are very prevalent in our society, we as a country have learnt to ally together against these villainous and uneducated people. In 2013 for example we finally took a step further towards the future by legalising the basic moral right of marriage between same sex couples.

Valentine's day has been a large factor in all our lives, when each year couples all around the world send cards, chocolates, and other gifts. Unfortunately for a large period, whilst straight couples were openly sending cards and gifts, LGBTQ+ couples were hiding in the shadows. Even now in a time of societal and political reformation, many members of the LGBTQ+ community feel uncomfortable and too afraid to present their true selves to the world. We must, as a society going forward, create the necessary conditions in our friendships, families, and workplaces to accommodate and ensure the comfortability of our fellow members of humanity.



### PRESENT

*Written by Imogen and Jessica Yr 9*

*Edited and added to by Connor Yr 11*

Valentine's day has been celebrated widely across the world for generations by couples around the world. Unfortunately, some couples have been segregated and prevented from being who they are and loving who they want to love. For centuries, LGBTQ+ couples have been imprisoned, abused, and killed for expressing their sexuality. Their words have been compressed, their spirit has been crushed and their humanity has been stripped away from them. Whilst straight couples where sending flowers and letters, Gay couples were hiding and compressing who they wanted to be. Even in Britain, a diverse nation filled with several different families and people, same sex marriage was only legalised just 8 years ago in 2013.

Even the term homophobia was only coined in 1960, due to the normalisation of hate and prejudice against same sex couples. Thankfully, we as a world and as a country have developed and have finally defied the practices of our predecessor's by accepting the right to love between human beings.



### FUTURE

*Written by Jules and Natalie Yr 8*

Valentine's day has always been about the celebration of love, but should it be more inclusive? Hardly any love stories are about same sex/LGBTQ+ relationships, so how can we change this? Well, we could begin by including friendships as well as romantic relationships, since not everyone wants to be in a relationship or feels romantic feelings towards people. Valentine's day should be about love in all different shapes and forms, not just the straight relationships many of us celebrate. Just like people, love comes in millions of unique forms, which is why we should be more inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community during valentine's day. Something that could help us do this is calling valentine's- Valenpride.

We have, in recent years, seen the LGBTQ+ community represented more widely in the advertisement of both valentines, and in other aspects of life. Television adverts are finally starting to show same sex couples and celebrating relationships in all of their diversities.

I hope that in the future the world will learn to accept all forms of love, as love is beautiful no matter whether it's in friendships, relationships, families or just self-love.

Love is love.



**Autumn 2 podcast available 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022!**



Scan this to listen to our carefully selected Valenpride playlist!

- Open Spotify
- Go to search
- Above the search is a camera icon. If you press on that and hover above the code, it should come up!

**Valentine’s Day Film recommendations:**

- *Out*- Disney+ - PG
- *Miraculous Ladybug*- YouTube- PG
- *Tyler*- Netflix – 12a
- *The Prom*- Netflix – 13+
- *Love, Simon*- Amazon Prime- 13+

**We spoke to...**

Mrs Eccleston is currently planning to renew her vows to her wife in a ceremony which is much closer to home than their first wedding. This is because when Mrs Eccleston and her wife were first married, they had to marry abroad as there were limited places that would recognise their union as a marriage. Now that society has become more diverse, and same sex relationships are being not only recognised, but celebrated, Mrs Eccleston and her wife are renewing their vows! We think it is amazing!

Mrs Eccleston also shared with us some of her own personal experiences of being a part of the LGBTQAI+ society and we were saddened and shocked to learn that she did not always feel comfortable enough to dress the way she wanted to, or even have her hair cut the way she proudly does now. This made us reflect on our own privileges and makes us want to ensure we are allies and ensure everyone feels safe and secure in our school. Over time, Mrs Eccleston has felt confident and safe enough to express her true self and she is an inspiration to the whole St Cuthbert’s community and an amazing and inspirational leader for our Rainbow LGBTQAI+ society.



**Catholic Life of the School**

*Written by Miruna and Melody Yr 9*



Valentine’s Day is celebrated on the 14th of February each year and originally glamorized straight romances. As time has evolved, relationships within the LGBTQ+ community are being represented in campaigns for Valentine’s Day. In the Bible, we are encouraged to support all people, this is shown in the quote: “There are neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, we are ALL made in the Image and likeness of God (Imago Dei). Therefore, we shouldn’t judge others or discriminate against others as it goes against God’s Will.

**World book day**

Remember to enter Mrs Barton’s world book day competition and ask your form teachers about the world book day vouchers!

