

## Sign Language

### Sign Language Week - March

This week is a flagship awareness week for British Sign Language and Irish Sign Language, celebrated every year in March to commemorate the first time BSL was acknowledged as a sign in its own right by the UK Government on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2003. According to <https://signlanguageweek.org.uk/>, the Sign Language Week theme colour this year is turquoise, as inspired by the deaf flag. Last summer, members of the World Federation of the Deaf, including BDA, approved the deaf flag. The deaf flag is a powerful symbol for deaf communities around the world.

**Turquoise Blue** – represents the deaf community and Sign Language pride and unity.

**Yellow** – represents the colour of light, an enlightened spirit, life and “thriving in unison”.

**Dark Blue** – represents the earth, humanity and living in accordance with the planet. Dark Blue also indicates Deafhood, an individual and collective journey to combat audism and embrace deaf gain.

For many deaf people, sign language is the heart of their living and cultural heritage as it allows people to have a sense of belonging and allows some to feel seen. Together we can change the narrative on our language, and the deaf community, so that future generations inherit a stronger, more inclusive society.

### How to get involved

There are so many ways that you can get involved in Sign Language Week:

- Companies can have the opportunity to engage in a free BSL lesson – <https://signlanguageweek.org.uk/company-bsl>
- Schools across the UK can have the opportunity to introduce their children into BSL via a free pre-recorded lesson - <https://signlanguageweek.org.uk/school-bsl-lesson>
- By making a donation - <https://signlanguageweek.org.uk/lostfound>
- Individuals can access online resources via the British Sign website – <https://www.british-sign.co.uk/>
- Online games and word searches – <https://www.british-sign.co.uk/fingerspelling-game/> <https://www.british-sign.co.uk/bsl-word-search/>
- Printables of A-Z