
**RACIAL INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS: ACADEMIC YEAR 2003-04
MONITORING REPORT**

Responsible Cabinet Member(s) -Councillor Stephen Harker, Education Portfolio

Responsible Director(s) - Geoff Pennington, Director of Education

Purpose of Report

1. This annual report to members provides information about the number, nature and outcomes of racist incidents in schools during the academic year 2003-04.

Information and Analysis

2. In the school year 2003-04, up to and including 16th July, a total of 75 racist incidents were recorded and submitted to the named officer in the Education Department.
3. Details of the incidents are set out in the table in Appendix A. The table shows the total number of incidents on a month by month basis. In addition, there is a breakdown of the time of day in which each incident took place; the ethnicity and gender of the suspected perpetrators and victims and the nature of the incidents. In every case, further action was taken by the headteacher or a senior manager in the school. Appendix B shows the various codes and categories.
4. Further action encompasses a range of responses, as appropriate to the individual circumstances. These responses include one or more of the following: discussions with victim and perpetrator; counselling for the victim; meeting with parent/carer of the perpetrator and/or victim; informing the Police; letter sent to the parent/carer of the perpetrator and/or victim; fixed term exclusion; work in Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) or Circle Time, focussing on diversity issues.
5. In comparison with last year, the number of reported incidents has risen, with 16 schools in all reporting incidents. This is not unexpected. As awareness of these issues increases in schools the number of reported cases will rise, as they have done since such reporting to Members began. It is not possible to say when the reporting of incidents will either plateau or even fall – however, at present, officers feel that an increase in reporting indicates greater awareness of the issues and a greater intolerance of racist behaviour, which is evidence of progress.
6. During this academic year 2003-04 the Education Department, through the work of its Language for Learning Service, has worked with schools and governors on race equality issues. Work has included training for governors on race equality issues; work with school lunchtime supervisory staff; the dissemination of resources for pupils in Key Stage 2; the

dissemination of training packs to pupils in Key Stage 3. These packs, which look at issues such as prejudice and discrimination, have been delivered to pupils jointly by staff in mainstream schools and an external support and development worker.

7. In addition, workshops have been run for pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4 to enable young people in schools to produce their own leaflets about challenging racism. Funding has been provided to each participating school to enable the printing of these leaflets.
8. Headteachers now report to governing bodies on an annual basis on the number of racial incidents in the school so that governing bodies are able to carry out their monitoring role. Governors were advised about this responsibility and given guidance on their role in respect of monitoring racial incidents by means of a Report of the Director of Education during the last academic year.

Outcome of Consultation

9. No consultation was required on this matter.

Legal Implications

10. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

11. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

12. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

Decision Deadline

13. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

Recommendation

14. It is recommended that Members consider and receive this report.

Reasons

15. It is recommended that Members should receive a report on racist incidents in schools. This will be produced annually.

Geoff Pennington, Director of Education

Background Papers

The 'Moving Forward on Racial Equality in Darlington Schools' manual used in the preparation of this report.

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Monitoring of racist incidents in schools 2003/2004

Number of incidents on a monthly basis (75 in total - Primary schools 55; Secondary schools 20):

Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
10	3	5	5	5	7	14	6	11	8	1

Time of day incidents occurred:

Lesson	Break	Lunch	Collective worship	Out of school	Bus
26	14	32	1	1	1

Ethnicity of suspected perpetrators:

WBRI	ABAN	REFU	NOBT	UNKNOWN	WIRI /ABAN	NOT RECORDED
50	1	1	2	1	1	19

Ethnicity of alleged victims:

MWBC	MWBA	ABAN	CHNE	MOTH	WBRI	MWAS	WIRT	BOTH	NOBT	AIND	APKN	AOTH	WIRI	NOT RECORDED
24	1	16	2	1	4	2	2	1	2	3	2	3	1	11

Nature of incidents:

Name calling	Racist comments	Racist abuse	Racist graffiti	Other
39	19	15	1	1

Gender:

Suspected perpetrators		Alleged victims	
54 male	21 female	39 male	30 female plus several mixed groups of children

Outcomes:

All incidents resulted in further actions being taken, usually by the Headteacher or a member of senior management.

