



SHEFFORD LOWER SCHOOL

DEALING WITH RACIST INCIDENTS POLICY

Context

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places a positive legal duty on schools to promote equality. This means that policies and practices which are not in themselves racist, but which have a discriminatory effect on particular ethnic groups, are open to challenge in the courts.

Rationale

At Sheffield Lower School we are proactive in creating a learning community characterised by empathy, understanding and harmony across ethnic, national and religious heritages, where diversity is nurtured, valued and celebrated. We achieve this through the curriculum, living values and our own example to children.

Having effective policy and practice in place to deal with racist incidents is critical to this aspiration.

We recognise that:

- We are committed to equality of opportunity for all
- Racist incidents have far reaching consequences for any victim of a racist incident and for young children
- All learners are entitled to a multicultural and anti-racist education, irrespective of the presence or absence of learners who are from ethnic minorities
- There must be active monitoring and evaluation of policies and practice
- There is a need for public accountability in reporting on racist incidents, follow up action and outcomes.

Aims

- Pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors are aware that racial harassment, bullying, abuse, graffiti and other racist behaviour, in any part of the school, and by pupils to and from school, will be challenged and will not be tolerated
- Pupils are empowered to report racist incidents within a framework that recognises the right of the child to be heard
- The right of the child to involve an adult external to the school to express her/his perceptions is recognised
- All staff are familiar with, and able to implement, the procedures for dealing with and recording racist incidents
- All staff are vigilant with regard to behaviour among pupils, and will look out for, and respond appropriately to, incidents and reported incidents of bullying and harassment
- Pupils and parents/carers are involved in agreeing principles and procedures for dealing with racist incidents, including bullying and harassment, and are expected to play their part in dealing with such incidents
- Racial discrimination is eliminated from, and racial equality is promoted in, employment
- Policy is determined and data are provided to the Governing Body on all racist incidents
- A curriculum is delivered which is explicit in promoting diversity and British Values and in challenging racism.

Definition

A racist incident is an incident which has been perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person.

Context

The Race Relations Act 1976 makes it unlawful to discriminate directly or indirectly on grounds of colour, race, nationality and ethnic or national origin.

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act (2000) places a positive legal duty on the whole of the public sector, including schools, to promote equality.

Procedures

School practices

School practices will include:

- Commitment to taking immediate action where a racist incident takes place
- Provision of appropriate support for the person who has been the subject of a racist incident
- Appropriate intervention with the person who has initiated the incident
- Making clear where a racist incident has occurred, that this is unacceptable
- Encouraging pupils and staff to explore their own perceptions in the light of the values and principles set out above
- Being careful when dealing with racist incidents that involve retaliation, to ensure that appropriate action is taken both with the person who has initiated the incident and the person who has retaliated in response to it
- Discussing racist incidents with parents/carers and encouraging them to reinforce the school's anti-racist practices at home
- Providing regular training on the school's racial equality and racial harassment policies and procedures
- Identifying a named senior member of staff to oversee the recording and monitoring of racist incidents
- Ensuring that supply and temporary staff are aware of and implement the school's policy

Racist incidents can cover a range of occurrences, from violence with a racist motivation to use of language which causes offence but arises from ignorance or thoughtlessness rather than from any overtly racist motivation. However, a pupil's life chances can be undermined by behaviour which is racist in nature, even if there is no racist intent.

The person responsible for the incident should be provided with the opportunity to learn from it. In some instances, for example where racist behaviour arises out of ignorance, then counselling from a member of staff might be appropriate (for example, a teacher taking a pupil aside to discuss what has happened and the harm that might have resulted).

In all instances, the parents/carers, both of the person responsible for the incident and of the person subject to the incident will be informed. The person who has been the subject of a racist incident will be appropriately supported.

In some circumstances it may be necessary to refer a racist incident to the Police. This will normally only be necessary where there is violence or aggression leading to physical harm and/or intimidation and we would expect this to relate to incidents involving adults rather than children. The advice of the Police Community Support Officer may be sought.

See Annex A for a list of behaviours with a potentially racial motive.

See Annex B for a flowchart that sets out a sequence for responding to racist incidents.

Recording racist incidents

All racist incidents, as determined by the definition agreed above, will be recorded using the school's electronic behaviour log.

Dealing with racist incidents

Staff – complaints against staff will be dealt with in line with the Complaints Policy and the school’s disciplinary procedures accordingly.

Governors – governors are expected to uphold the school’s values and ethos and to show respect for all people. If an allegation is made about a governor, the Chair of Governors will organise an investigation. If a governor is responsible for a racist incident the governing body will determine the action to be taken. Where a governor is subject to a racist incident, ~~the Governing Body will provide appropriate support and will decide on the nature of the investigation and the action to be taken following the investigation.~~ This will be managed in accordance to the school’s procedures.

Incidents involving school governors will be recorded in the same manner as those involving children, staff or other adults at school.

Action taken by the Governing Body should be consistent with the values, principles, policies and practice set out in this policy.

Visitors (including parents/carers) – where a visitor (who might also be a parent/carer of a child at the school) is responsible for a racist incident, this will be reported to the Headteacher who will take the following actions:

- Inform the visitor that the school does not tolerate racist behaviour
- Invite the visitor to leave the premises
- If the visitor is employed by an organisation, inform the visitor that the organisation will be informed of the racist incident
- Inform the organisation accordingly
- Contact the Police if necessary

Parents/Carers – parents/carers of pupils who are the subject of racist incidents will be informed of those incidents and of the action taken to deal with them. Parents/carers of pupils who are responsible for racist incidents will be invited to play an active role in dealing with the situation.

Roles and Responsibilities

Designated Senior Person

The Headteacher is the designated senior person for dealing with racist incidents. In the absence/unavailability of the DSP the Deputy Head Teacher will act in her place. The designated person is responsible for recording and monitoring racial incidents to ensure that:

- All racist incidents and complaints of racial discrimination and racial harassment against staff are recorded and investigated within one week
- Active steps are taken to protect staff from racist bullying or harassment by pupils, parents/carers, visitors and other staff
- Where appropriate, racist incidents are dealt with through the school’s disciplinary procedures
- All staff have access to the school’s Grievance Procedures in the event of being subject to racist incidents, including racial discrimination and racial harassment
- Staff induction covers the school’s policy and procedures for dealing with racist incidents
- All staff are trained on how to implement the school’s racial harassment policy and procedures
- Good practice and effective strategies for dealing with racist incidents are shared between staff
- Staff effectiveness in dealing with racist incidents is monitored and evaluated.
- Racist incidents are monitored and analysed and reported to the Governing Body

Staff

School staff, including, where appropriate, contract and supply staff, are expected to:

- Take responsibility for implementing the school's policies
- Teach children, through the curriculum, to understand and respect all people and the different faiths and cultures of people living in the UK.
- Foster a positive atmosphere of mutual respect and trust among pupils from all ethnic groups
- Ensure that play and leisure areas provide a positive environment for pupils from all ethnic groups
- Deal with incidents according to this policy whenever they occur

Governing Body

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for ensuring that:

- There is a policy for reporting racist incidents
- A DSP who is a senior member of the school is appointed

Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

Careful record keeping of racist incidents will enable the school to identify patterns of behaviour whereby individuals or groups can be shown to be regular victims or perpetrators of racist incidents.

The examination of these records on a regular basis by Designated Senior Person will provide the school with a picture of the frequency and nature of racist incidents and give some indication as to how effectively the school is combating such behaviour.

The Head Teacher will make a termly report to the Governing Body on the number of racist incidents recorded, and an annual report to the Governing Body disaggregated in line with the categories provided on the Racist Incident Forms. The Governing Body will use this, and other supporting information, to review the school's policy and practice on dealing with racist incidents.

Parents/Carers will be informed of the school's policy and practice on dealing with racist incidents.

The school will provide aggregated information to the LA in the form it is requested.

This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body every three years.

Links to Other Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the:

- Equality Policy.
- Individual Needs Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Visitors and Volunteers Policy
- Whistle Blowing Policy

Policy Reviewed	October 2016
Next review date	October 2019
Headteacher	Tracey Callender
Chair of Governors	Mark Liddiard

ANNEX A: BEHAVIOURS WITH A POTENTIALLY RACIAL MOTIVE

- Physical assault
- Racist graffiti
- Derogatory name calling
- Racist insults
- Racist jokes
- Comments which are offensive on grounds of colour, race, ethnic and national origin, nationality and citizenship
- Drawings which are offensive on grounds of colour, race, ethnic and national origin, nationality and citizenship
- Bringing to school, material which is racist, including leaflets, comics or magazines
- Wearing racist tattoos, badges or insignia
- Extortion
- Intimidation
- Using threatening words
- Using taunts
- Using ridicule
- Theft
- Damage to personal property
- Incitement of others to behave in a racist manner
- Verbal abuse.

ANNEX B: SUMMARY PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH RACIST INCIDENTS

