

Appendix 1

Best Value Report

REPORTING AND DEALING WITH RACIST INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS – Best Value Indicator

**“Satisfaction in the way racist incidents resulting in
further action are handled”**

Background

Within the framework of best value indicators (BVPIs) The LA is required to collect the number of racist incidents in schools (BVPI 174) and the number of incidents in which follow up actions was taken (BVPI 175). As well as reporting numerically on these indicators, we are also required to comment on evidence of measurable improvements in respect of:

- * *Increasing confidence in reporting racist incidents*
- * *Increasing satisfaction in the way racist incidents resulting in further action are handled*

One to one interviews were conducted with pupils in 11 schools. The majority of these schools also took part in the evaluation in 2004-2005. The pupils were selected by the schools based on them being the victim of a racist incident. Fourteen primary school pupils were interviewed and twelve in secondary education.

All the evidence is the subjective perception of the pupils and there has been no attempt to seek further evidence and all pupils were told the interviews would be confidential.

Ethnicity of Pupils Interviewed (as identified by the pupils themselves)

Somali (6)	Black African (2)	Total— 26 pupils	
Pakistani (3)	White British (5)		
British Sikh (1)	Black Caribbean (2)		
Iranian (1)	Black British (3)		
Italian/Jamaican (1)	White/Black Caribbean (1)		Indian (1)

Year Groups

One pupil was interviewed from Years 2,11 and 10, 2 from Years 4, 7 and 3, 4 from Years 5, 9 and 8 and 5 from Year 6.

Types of incidents

The nature of the incidents were:

Name Calling: 17 (62%)	Physical Assault : 4 (15%)	Total— 27 pupils
Verbal Abuse: 2 (7%)	Racist Comment: 1 (3%)	
Other: 3 (11%)		

Location

Out of the 29 locations that the incidents occurred in, 44% happened in the playground, 31% in the classroom, 7% in the corridor, 3% at an external location, 3% in the toilets, 7% on the way to/from school and 3% outside school.

Reporting the incident

The pupils were asked following the incident occurring whether they felt that it was easy or difficult to report the incident. They responded:

Extremely easy: 2 (8%)	Very easy: 1 (4%)	Fairly easy: 4 (17%)
Neither easy or difficult: 1 (4%)	Fairly difficult: 5 (21%)	Very difficult: 5 (21%)
Completely dissatisfied: 5 (21%)	Don't know: 1 (4%)	

Primary

30% of primary pupils found it extremely easy or fairly easy to report and 69% of pupils at primary schools found it difficult on some level to report.

Secondary

36% of secondary pupils found it easy to report the incidents, 55% of pupils found it difficult to report the incident.

63% of the pupils found it difficult to report the incident, reasons for this were;

- Fear that the perpetrator would 'beat them up'
- Fear of repercussions if they 'told anyone'
- Fear of 'telling on others'
- Fear the bullying will carry on
- Seeing friends experience repercussions after reporting incidents
- 'Scared going to be beaten up'
- Didn't want to get a friend in trouble
- Didn't want to report it as they felt the school didn't deal with it very well when they had reported it before
- Because of how it was dealt with when they had previously reported incidents
- The belief that teaching and auxiliary staff may not believe you

Out of 26 pupils, 19% said they had experienced some level of negative response by the perpetrator or friends of the perpetrator following reporting the incident.

Follow up Action

Out of the 26 pupils interviewed 42% of the pupils were spoken to by the school in relation to the actions that would be taken yet only 23% of the pupils said they were updated on actions taken.

The pupils that were aware of the follow up action that had been taken by the school gave details as follows:-

Action/support for the victim

Parent/carer involvement: 14 (64%)

Fixed term exclusion: 2 (9%)

Don't know: 2 (9%)

Discussed with peers: 1 (5%)

Ongoing support or monitoring from staff: 2 (9%)

Other: 'suspension' - 1 (5%)

Total replies—22

Satisfaction

Out of the pupils updated on action taken, 63% were satisfied and 33% were dissatisfied with action taken.

Very satisfied—11 (45%)

Fairly Dissatisfied—2 (8%)

Don't know—1 (4%)

Fairly satisfied—4 (16%)

Completely dissatisfied—6 (25%)

Total replies—24

Follow up Action

Details of follow up actions taken by schools during the Year 2005 -2006 are in the annual report. The number of follow up actions exceeds the number of incidents as there are sometimes more than one action per incident.

Reporting the Incident – Case Studies

Primary School A

In one primary school, of the three pupils interviewed all of them found it difficult on some level to report, and all three pupils said they were completely dissatisfied with how the school followed up the incident. All three pupils said they did not know what actions had been taken by the school. Two stated that they did not think that the teacher believed it was racist and two out of the three pupils said there was too much time taken between the incident being reported and action taken by the school.

Primary School B

At another primary school, of the three pupils interviewed, two commented that they found it fairly difficult to report the incident, the reasons given for this were that they didn't want the other pupils to get into trouble as they were friends, and because they were scared they were going to be "beaten up". All three pupils said they were spoken to about actions that would be taken following the incidents. Two of the pupils were satisfied with actions taken by the school and one was fairly satisfied. All pupils were confident that if incidents were reported the school would follow them up.

Secondary School A

All three pupils in one of the secondary school said they did not know what action had been taken by the school. Two pupils who had reported racist incidents, when asked if they were satisfied or dissatisfied with how the school had dealt with the incident, replied 'Don't know' and the other was completely dissatisfied.

Secondary School B

A Year 11 pupil was a victim of a racist incident involving a high level of physical assault. He found it extremely easy to report the incident because he knew the school would do something about it. He reported the incident to the Police School Liaison Officer. He was spoken to in relation to actions taken, the school also wrote to his parents to inform them of the incident and the follow up action and on going support. The pupil was very satisfied with the actions that were taken by the school.

Recommendations to schools and LA

Updating victims on follow up action

This is a key area for improvement by schools as 11 pupils said they were told what initial action would be taken, and only 6 pupils said they were updated on action taken. This was also a finding in last year's surveys, one key area of dissatisfaction was keeping the victim informed of actions taken by the school and also some pupils identified their perception of the lack of positive action taken by the school in relation to the initial incidents.

This year the level of satisfaction is slightly greater than last year. The satisfaction levels are higher at primary level. This is evidenced by the improvement of follow up action by some schools and good practice in relation to follow up that has been used by some schools.

For further information, or if you require this document in a different format e.g. Braille or audio tape, electronically or in a community language, please contact:

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