

Saffron Walden County High School



POLICY FOR REPORTING AND RECORDING RACIST INCIDENTS

Date adopted or ratified; September 2020

This policy is regularly reviewed following recommended guidelines

Introduction and aim

The aim of this policy is to provide guidelines for SWCHS to establish effective procedures for the reporting and recording of racist incidents.

It will ensure that action is taken to support the victims of racism and to deal with perpetrators appropriately. The policy has been informed by the following documents:

- Learning for All: Standards for racial equality in schools (CRE, 2000)
- Home Office Code of Practice on reporting and recording racist incidents in response to recommendation 15 of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report (April 2000)
- School Inclusion: Pupil Support (DfES, 1999)
- Race Relations (Amendment) Act (2000)
- Essex LA: Dealing with Prejudice-Related Incidents
- The Equality Act 2010 and schools: Departmental advice for school leaders, school staff, governing bodies and local authorities (May 2014)

We all have a responsibility to challenge racism in our institution. Action will only be successful if it forms part of a wider policy which is embedded within all our practices.

Definitions

Our definition of a racist incident is that of recommendation 12 of the Report of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry:

“A racist incident is any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person.”

Our definition of racial harassment is that of the CRE:

“..verbal or physical violence which includes attacks on property as well as on the person, which is suffered by individuals or groups because of their colour, race, nationality and ethnic or national origins, and where the victim believes that the perpetrator was acting on racial grounds and/or there is evidence of racism.”

Examples of racist incidents

A racist incident may include:

- derogatory name-calling, insults, racist jokes and language
- verbal abuse and threats
- physical assaults
- ridicule based on differences of colour, race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, religion or language
- refusal to co-operate with others because of any of the above differences
- stereotyping on the basis of colour, race, ethnicity etc.
- racist comments
- racist graffiti
- written abuse
- damage to property
- incitement of others to act in a racist manner
- provocative behaviour such as wearing racist badges or insignia
- bringing racist materials such as leaflets, magazines or computer software onto the premise
- recruiting other young people to racist organisations or groups.

Even if the victim of an incident does not complain, it should be treated as a racist incident if another person perceives it as such. For example, a teacher or youth worker overhears a child calling a Traveller child a 'gyppo'. The adult records this as a racist incident, even though the abused child does not complain to him or her.

Dealing with Racist Incidents

No incident that is, or appears to be racially motivated, should go unchallenged and every member of staff has a responsibility for responding to the situation.

They should make explicit that any racist behaviour is unacceptable and contravenes the institution's policy, culture and ethos.

If the member of staff is unable to resolve the matter, it should be referred to the Deputy Head, Director of Student Achievement.

The action to be taken will depend on whether the perpetrator is known and whether he/she is a young person, a member of staff or an outside perpetrator.

Where the perpetrator is a young person or pupil, staff should explain why racist behaviour is unacceptable. Any disciplinary action taken, including temporary or permanent exclusion, will be in line with the institution's behaviour policy and anti-bullying policy.

The parents or careers of all perpetrators and victims will be informed of the incident and action taken.

Racial harassment or any form of racist behaviour from any member of staff towards any pupil, young person, parent or another member of staff will not be tolerated, and will be dealt with as a serious breach of the school's disciplinary procedures. We recognise that appropriate training and other support will be necessary for all staff. When members of staff are found to have committed misconduct involving racial harassment they will face disciplinary sanctions up to and including dismissal.

Where there is an outside perpetrator, staff should attempt to discuss the matter with them and if necessary refer them to school policy and/or the Headteacher.

Repeated racist incidents or a single serious incident may lead to consideration under Child Protection procedures.

Recording and Reporting Incidents

In line with the recommendations of the documents cited in the introduction, SWCHS records all racist incidents using the school's hate Incident Internal referral form. This includes the following details:

- date
- names of perpetrators and victims
- the ethnicity of all individuals involved
- nature of incident
- action taken in response

- name of the person reporting the incident

Records are kept in the Assistant Head's, Deputy of Student Achievement, office.

All incidents which involve a member of a minority ethnic group will be monitored to ensure that potentially racist incidents are not overlooked.

Although some incidents may seem minor, it is still important to log them as repeat incidents often mean that earlier reports assume greater importance.

Governors are informed of the number and nature of racist incidents and the action taken to deal with them.

The pattern and frequency of racist incidents are analysed in order to inform future planning.

Details of the pattern and frequency of racist incidents are held at institutional level.

We will advise the police of any racist incidents that may be categorised as crimes.

Support for the Victim

When dealing with racist incidents involving pupils or young people, staff should:

Listen attentively

- indicate they are pleased that the young person has been able to tell them
- remain calm and reassuring
- accept their language and terminology
- remember that to confide in a member of staff may need considerable courage

Acknowledge

- acknowledge the feelings of the young person
- confirm they were right to make the disclosure
- show they understand the difficulty in discussing the matter
- establish whether the incident is part of a pattern
- reassure while explaining the need to take the matter further

Peer on peer support

Support is also provided by the Diversity Champions and when appropriate deploy the schools peer on peer student led support group of Hate Incident Ambassadors HIA. The HIA team have undertaken hate crime training from Uttlesford District Council.

Report

Indicate that the information needs to be shared with others in authority in order to stop further harassment. If the victim is adamant that they do not want any further action, the incident should, nevertheless, be recorded. The circumstances of the victim, e.g. age, self-confidence in dealing with the situation for themselves, will be a guiding factor for staff

when deciding on a course of action. In certain cases, the victim's identity will need to be protected and the situation must be handled sensitively.

Support

Recognise that victims will need immediate support and must be reassured that the matter will be treated seriously and that a full investigation will take place.

Ensure that parents/carers of both the victim and perpetrator are aware of the incident and kept informed of the progress of any investigation. It may be necessary to either provide support or encourage parents/carers to seek support for themselves and other members of the family.

We recognise that members of staff can also experience racial harassment from pupils/young people, from other staff, from parents/carers, or members of the public. We will support them in the same way as we would pupils/young people.

Whole-school or institutional issues

Racism has an impact on the whole school community and on the wider community it serves. Visual evidences will be dealt with immediately (graffiti removed, racist literature/badges/insignia confiscated etc.)

There is regular and ongoing training and discussion of the issues and a sharing of the school's response amongst all staff, governors, pupils/young people and the local community. This common approach will include communication with parents/carers and community members and liaison with outside agencies.

We will ensure that all those connected with the establishment are aware of the policy and procedures and have access to any related documentation.

Monitoring and review

Assistant Head: Deputy Director of Student Achievement has overall responsibility for monitoring the recording and reporting of racist incidents and will analyse report forms on an annual basis. This analysis will inform annual reports to governors.