

SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

Welsh Parliament
Petitions Committee
Janet Finch-Saunders

26th February 2021

Re: - Petition P-05-1080 Introduce anti-racist teaching materials to children in schools in Wales to reduce hate crimes

*Children need to be educated on how to be anti-racist. Although introducing POC and black history into the curriculum will be extremely beneficial, children need to have **direct conversations about racism and how to be antiracist**. This will reduce bullying in schools and allow children to grow up in a multi-cultural environment, regardless of whether that have been surrounded by other cultures or not. This way, children will understand other cultures, and defeat stereotypes and discrimination.*

SRtRC Response

Introduction: Who we are and what we do

Show Racism the Red Card Wales (SRtRC) is an anti-racism education charity that was established in 1996. The Wales office was set up in 2006 and since then, we have worked with approximately 160,000 children, young people and adults. The organisation utilises the high-profile status of sport and sports stars to offer up relatable role models in a bid to help tackle racism in society. This is achieved through the delivery of education workshops in schools, workplaces and at events held at local sports clubs or stadia. We currently deliver all our workshops and training sessions online.

Workshops with children

Our workshops with children focus on increasing understanding of racism, exploring skin colour, nationality, culture and religion through activities and discussion. The activities involve challenging stereotypes and developing critical thinking skills. Racist language and terminology are also addressed, resulting in children having a greater understanding of the meaning and history behind certain words.

Workshops with teachers and school staff

Our teacher training sessions help teachers to recognise and respond to racist incidents as well as embed anti-racist practises into their classroom. These sessions range from one-off twilight sessions to series of workshops that participants attend over a longer period. Workshops are often tailored to the requirements of each school or educational setting.

Racism in schools – our work in relation to the report

Increase in racism in schools

Even though we are not a reporting body, the charity records all communication relating to workshop enquiries, including those related to a racist incident. This is usually in the form of phone calls from teachers or parents who have been made aware of incidents. SRtRC's database for the academic year 2018-2019 shows a 26.2% increase in such communications of racist incidents compared to the previous year, 2017-2018, with the number of all enquiries around workshop bookings rising just 8.9% in comparison. As such, the increase appears to be disproportionately driven by racist incidents that are occurring, rather than simply proactive educators looking to undertake preventative work. Alongside this, the charity has both qualitative and quantitative evidence of negative ideas of individuals or groups of various ethnicities, religions (linking Islam to terrorism), nationalities, and cultures (particularly Gypsies / Roma / Travellers).

Some examples of racist incidents that have been disclosed are provided below:

- "A year 5/6 pupil pulling hijab off another child."
- "Comments from year 4 child "Wouldn't want to sit next to a black man on a bus"
- "Children using the 'N' word towards each other"
- "Student picked on because he is from Syria and 'must be a terrorist' and 'takes all our jobs'"
- "Year 1 pupil had been told by a fellow pupil in class he was not going to go in her group as he doesn't like brown people"
- "There has been an incident in school today where a little girl has used racist language to hurt someone's feelings (P-word)"
- "A year 9 pupil hit another pupil because they didn't like their accent. A year 8 pupil told their friend that they would rub bacon on another (Muslim) pupil's face."

Further examples can be found in the attached document 'Teacher/School Support Survey: Show Racism the Red Card Survey Results' (**CONFIDENTIAL**).

Our 2020 report *Racism in Wales? Exploring Prejudice in the Welsh Education System* further indicates that racism is widespread across the Welsh school system. Over 1000 teachers and teaching staff took part in the online survey. In addition, qualitative consultations were carried out with 428 pupils. We recognise that this is a small percentage of the school workforce and pupils in Wales and feel we should draw attention to the fact that even within this small sample, a significant number of racist incidents are disclosed. The disparities between teachers reporting racism and pupils' experiences of racism also suggest that racism is being greatly underestimated by teachers and learning support staff.

We also hold a large volume of anecdotal evidence of racism collected through experience of working in schools. There is a grave cause for concern that on some occasions, racism in schools has not been taken seriously or dealt with in an appropriate manner. We speculate that a lack of clarity in reporting procedures/Prevent duty guidelines could be contributing in part to the issue. However, we also note that occasionally, people who hold significant positions of power in school and government have demonstrated a lack of urgency and priority when supporting schools on racism. We would be happy to share some examples in a private meeting.

Teaching anti-racism and teacher confidence

The report indicates that most teachers have not received any anti-racism training and admit to lacking confidence in recognising, responding to and reporting racism. 89% of survey respondents said that they believe that anti-racism education should be embedded in the curriculum, however, the percentage of educators teaching anti-racism has fallen since our 2016 study. Lack of time and a lack of confidence were cited as the main challenges, suggesting that anti-racism is not being embedded into the curriculum. This is concerning when considering the plethora of incidents reported in the previous paragraphs.

Example of good practise - reduction of racist bullying

- ‘Racist Incident Log’ data from a case study in a school in Wales showed that the number of racist incidents that occurred halved after the intervention. The number of pupils involved in those incidents fell by 62.5% to just 3 pupils.

Post intervention survey question: Has the work with SRtRC had an impact in your school? Please comment.

‘Yes it has. During the project we experienced less incidents of racist language. This is evidenced through our bound book.’

‘Yes. The use of racist language has reduced considerably.’

‘Yes. The number of incidents have decreased since SRtRC started working with our learners. The learners seem to have more of an understanding of the impact of the language they use.’

Shifting School Culture Away From Racism: A Case Study, Show Racism the Red Card, 2019

SRtRC Recommendations

1. Maintain the focus on embedding anti-racism organically through classroom resources, the use of role models and offering exposure to a diverse range of stories and examples.
2. Provide funding to ensure that every teacher in Wales receives anti-racism training focused on recognising, responding to and reporting racism, as well as challenging unconscious bias.
3. Ensure all educators are aware of places to access anti-racism resources.
4. The teaching workforce must be more diverse to reflect the changing student population in Wales.
5. Schools should be effectively monitored to ensure that they are consistently recording and reporting racist incidents and acting upon this information. There should be a duty placed on schools to report this data to the LA or WG.
6. Welsh Government should consider producing an annual statistical bulletin providing the data SRtRC currently has to acquire via FOI requests.
7. Estyn should include a specific question around racism on inspection questionnaires to develop a more complete picture of the extent of the issue.
8. Ensure all schools have an anti-racism champion who ensures pupil voice in reporting racism, be that through buddy systems, school councils or anonymous reporting systems.
9. Offer opportunities to staff to improve their knowledge around a range of religions to support the teaching of compulsory religious education.
10. The promotion of anti-racism through all areas of learning should be covered by all educators, from developing empathy through literature to offering diverse examples in science and technology.
11. Educational institutions should have the support and time to assess their needs and develop an appropriate action plan to embed an anti-racism approach within their daily practice.

Conclusion

Teaching and embedding anti-racism in the Welsh education system is both vital and long overdue. In addition to introducing anti-racist teaching materials, teachers must be trained so that they are confident and competent in dealing with and responding to racist incidents in schools. In addition, robust recording and reporting procedures should be made a requirement and adhered to by all schools. The teaching workforce must be more diverse to reflect the changing student population in Wales. Additional training and resources should be provided for schools to ensure all individuals are comfortable in developing an antiracism ethos throughout the Welsh education system. For this anti-racist work to be most effective, a strong commitment to anti-racism is required from governors, local authorities, consortia and Welsh Government.

P-05-1000: Black and POC UK histories to be taught in the Welsh education curriculum in future

Britain -including Wales- benefited from colonialism and slavery for centuries. This needs to be represented in the curriculum.

The British Empire has often been glamorised and the global impact of Britain's colonialism downplayed. This has been reflected in the content taught.

There needs to be real and significant change. The legacies of slavery and colonialism have very real impacts on BAME communities across Britain today, and the Welsh education system needs to recognise this.

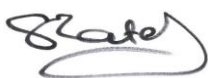
SRtRC Response

SRtRC believes that anti-racism should be embedded in the school curriculum and that in order to be most impactful, anti-racism education needs to be part of a wider and holistic system of anti-racism work. Central to this work is the vision that a balanced view of history is taught in every school in Wales. The new curriculum provides an opportunity to personalise learning and embed anti-racism within all areas of learning. We believe the teaching of Black and POC UK histories will contribute to greater understanding of people who arrived in the UK from colonies and former colonies and increase children's understanding of themselves and their society today. This understanding will be an essential contribution to increasing community cohesion and the development of anti-racism work in schools.

References

- Shifting School Culture Away From Racism: A Case Study, Show Racism the Red Card, 2019
- INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING CONFERENCES ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19, Show Racism the Red Card, 2019
- Teacher/School Support Survey: Show Racism the Red Card Survey Results. (CONFIDENTIAL)
- Racism and anti-racism in the Welsh education system, Show Racism the Red Card, 2016
- Racism in Wales? Exploring Prejudice in the Welsh Education System, Show Racism the Red Card, 2020
- Manifesto for Change: Using Education to End Racial Inequality Across the Nation, Show Racism the Red Card

Yours sincerely



Sunil Patel – Senior Campaign Manager Show Racism the Red Card (Wales)