



"I found this guide really helpful. It helped me to understand what I should expect from my children's school and how I can support them."

Parent.

RACE EQUALITY AND SCHOOLS: **A Guide for Parents and Carers**

- **The importance of race equality in schools**
- **What the law says**
- **What schools should do**
- **What parents can do**

RACE EQUALITY AND SCHOOLS:

THE IMPORTANCE OF RACE EQUALITY IN SCHOOLS

Racial discrimination within schools can undermine children's confidence and hinder successful learning. Schools have a responsibility to ensure that every child is given the chance to meet their full potential. This can only be achieved when pupils feel valued and accepted.

Schools, parents and pupils therefore need to take action to identify and prevent racial discrimination of any sort in schools.

It is not enough for schools to say that they support race equality. They have to act to create an environment in which racial discrimination is held to be unacceptable. Parents and carers need to know the law and their rights; and they need to know what they can do - and what their children can do - to stop racial discrimination and achieve race equality.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS

Head teachers and governing bodies in all schools should ensure they meet all the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

- ✓ The Race Relations (Amendment) Act of 2000 requires public authorities including schools to:
 - Eliminate racial discrimination;
 - Promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different racial groups.
- ✓ **Schools have specific duties under the Act to:**
 - **prepare a written policy for promoting race equality;**
 - **assess the impact of their policies on pupils, staff and parents from different racial groups;**
 - **monitor the operation of their policies, in particular on the attainment levels of pupils**

from different racial groups;

- **publish the results of their monitoring and make these available to pupils, staff and parents.**

- ✓ The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires schools to promote community cohesion.
 - Every school is required to develop and implement a community cohesion strategy so that they can promote discussion about common values and diversity and engage with the wider community.

Ofsted is required to ensure that inspection teams look specifically at the progress schools are making in relation to their duties under both the Race Relations (Amendment) Act and the Education and Inspection Act.

WHAT SCHOOLS SHOULD DO

In order to play their part in establishing race equality in schools, parents and carers need to know what schools should be doing.

Not all schools have fully recognised the importance of education for diversity. Nor do they recognise the clear link between the promotion of education for diversity and the raising of standards. All schools should take the following actions.

- ✓ Demonstrate commitment to race equality through senior leadership, by identifying senior staff to oversee race equality work.
- ✓ Ensure that race equality is taken into account when devising and reviewing policies.
- ✓ Carry out an Equalities Impact Assessment on all their policies and procedures.
- ✓ Provide race equality training and guidance for all staff and governors.

- ✓ Ensure that race equality is part of the curriculum for teaching and learning.
- ✓ Work towards ensuring that the school workforce reflects the diversity of the local community.
- ✓ Gather, analyse and act upon all data on pupil performance.
- ✓ Involve relevant local community organisations in the life of the school, to provide extra-curricular activities and services such as mentoring, revision classes and language teaching.
- ✓ Share best practice with other schools in the wider community through the school's website, newsletters and the local press.
- ✓ Involve parents as key partners in developing and implementing the school's race equality policy and activities.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- ✓ Ask questions and be active.
- ✓ Get a copy of the school's Race Equality Policy and find out how the school is implementing it.
- ✓ Find out whether the school's staff reflects the ethnicity of the area, especially at senior management level.
- ✓ Investigate the performance of ethnic groups in the school.
- ✓ Be vigilant about any possible racial discrimination experienced by your child or other children at the school.
- ✓ Become actively involved in the school's activities, such as Parents Teachers Associations.
- ✓ Provide feedback. Congratulate the school if you feel they are doing well, and tell others about it.
- ✓ Contact the Department for Children, Schools and Families for further information, email: info@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or visit website: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/>

