

Dear [Name of your MP],

I am writing to ask you to support our campaign to eradicate racism in education.

Will you call on the Government to:

- Make teacher training to address racism in schools mandatory.
- Ensure OFSTED consistently and robustly holds schools accountable to the Equalities Act.
- Diversify ALL subjects in the curriculum, [like the 2022 model history curriculum](#), to ensure racial and cultural diversity.

Schools should be a place where students feel safe and there is ZERO tolerance of racism.

[Research](#) by the youth-led campaign group Justice4You has found that:

- Over 1 in 4 students has experienced racism whilst in their place of education.
- Worryingly 1 in 5 ethnic minority students had experienced racism from a teacher, often in the form of 'jokes' or cultural insensitivity.
- 75% of students who had experienced or witnessed a racist incident did not report it. Of those that did, just 7% said that the response provided them with a sense of justice.
- Half of the students we surveyed said that they do not feel their culture and ethnicity are reflected within the diversity of their teaching staff. While ethnic minority students now represent 31% of the school population, just 7% of school leaders and 14% of teachers and teaching assistants have ethnic backgrounds in England; and 46% of schools in England had no racially diverse teachers.[\[1\]](#)
- 62% of students feel their curriculum is not sufficiently diverse.

[This really matters to me because.....]

Background:

We have conducted a survey of over 200 students in schools, sixth forms, colleges and universities across England. We have found that racism exists throughout the education system, it is underreported and inadequately addressed when it is reported. Additionally, students feel that the curriculum is insufficiently diverse and do not feel culturally or ethnically represented by their teaching staff.

Given this survey is of 200 students we know it is not representative, but research that puts young people's voices at the heart of this debate is missing and we hope that by starting the conversation with these preliminary findings we can garner support to take our research further.

Detailed findings

[Here is a link to the full report.](#)

27% of the survey respondents had experienced racism in their place of education and 38% reported witnessing a racist incident. This was racially stratified, with 1 in 5 Black British/Black Caribbean/Black African witnessing racial discrimination compared to 1 in 10 White/White British students.

Our research found that racism is prevalent amongst students and teachers.

"There were three of us with minority ethnic names. Instead of the teacher trying to learn how to pronounce our names, she called us by our first initial."

"At school a teacher mixed me up with the only other Asian student in the class (even though we look nothing alike) and never bothered to actually learn our names / that we were different people whereas they remembered everyone else's name in the class."

Respondents of our survey strongly advocated for teacher training so that teachers understand the impact of their actions on marginalised students and feel equipped to take action if students experience a racist incident. This should start with Initial Teacher Training and be developed through CPD.

A shocking 75% of respondents who experienced or witnessed racism did not report the incident. Of those who did, just 7% felt their institution provided them with justice. This highlights a need to identify barriers to reporting as well as creating more robust institutional measures for addressing racial injustice. We suggest OFSTED develop more racism-specific measures to create a zero-tolerance culture for racism in schools. For example, checking that a school's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy includes:

- routes for students and teachers to raise concerns;
- what will happen in response and how this will be communicated; and
- how incidents and responses are recorded.

"A teacher was severely racist in general making a joke out of a culture, he then directed this to an individual in the class. We reported this behaviour, yet nothing was done straight away, he wasn't there the next term, but I'm not sure if this is linked to the report."

Change is necessary to eradicate racism in education. We need your support to work towards a more just system.

Kind regards,

[your name and age]

[add your address so they can see that you're a constituent]

[\[1\]](#) Demie F & Huat B. (2022) Blog post: Rethinking how we can improve the diversity of the teaching workforce in England. BERA, 6 Jan 2022