

Background

The report provides a summary of the results of the annual survey of racist incidents¹ in schools for the academic year 2005/2006 and comparisons with data from the previous years.

The collection of school data on racist incidents was made statutory by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. The duty of the local education authority to collect the data from schools was established in DfEE guidance 10/99.

The returns for 2005/06 asked schools to input their data electronically with a combined return for both racist and bullying incidents.

The request for schools to supply their data was circulated in September 2006 with a reminder by e-mail in January 2007. Further reminders continued until July 2007.

Collection of data was completed in July 2007. Out of 535 schools in Hertfordshire 488 (91%) submitted their data for 2005/06. The composition comprises, 395 primary (including first & nursery) Schools, 25 special schools & education support centres and 68 secondary, (including middle & upper) Schools. All schools for which we do not have recorded returns will be reminded of their statutory duty and offered support from MECSS.

The following data is presented so as to ensure that no individual institution is identifiable. Education support centres have been integrated with special schools for the purpose of the report.

Schools with policies on dealing with racist incidents

All schools are required to have in place a policy and procedure for dealing with racist incidents. These can be in a separate document or can be integrated within another policy, e.g. race equality, inclusion or behaviour.

Only 3 (0.6%) of the schools that submitted their data stated that they had no policy. 1 primary, 1 secondary and 1 school left this question blank. This figure has halved with this return. The schools concerned will be contacted and supported.

Racist incidents recorded by schools

All schools that submitted their data for 05/06, 488 (91% returns), stated that they do record and monitor racist incidents.

¹ The required definition for determining a racist incident is **“any incident perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person.”**

Number of racist incidents recorded by schools (that submitted their data) during 2005/06:

Phase (No. of schools that submitted data 2005/06)	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06
Primary + First & Nursery (395)	685	745	773	788	767
Secondary + Middle & Upper (68)	305	301	422	397	476
Special/ESC (25)	66	71	86	91	70
TOTAL (311)	1056	1117	1281	1276	1313

Racist Incidents investigated by the school and any other body

In 2003/04 there were concerns that there was a 12% discrepancy between the number of incidents recorded and those where further action was taken. To clarify the responses to the question requesting the data the wording was rephrased and supporting notes attached to demonstrate the range of responses that would be included in “action taken”.

For 2004/05 the discrepancy between the number of incidents recorded and the number in which action was taken remain at 12%.

In 2005/06 the discrepancy between the number of incidents recorded and the number in which action was taken has reduced to 8%. This is an improvement but continues to be a concern. Further guidance in response to this data will sent to all schools who reported a discrepancy between recording and action.

Number of racist incidents recorded by the school during 2005/06 compared with the number of racist incidents investigated

a) by the school

b) by the police or any other body (such as the *CRHE, WREC, MECSS):

(*Commission for Racial Equality, Watford Race Equality Council, Minority Ethnic Curriculum Support Service)

	Number of incidents recorded 2005- 06	Number of incidents Where action was taken by the school (percentage of those recorded)	Number of incidents investigated by the police or any other body (percentage of those recorded)
Primary	767	693	10 (1.3%)
Secondary	476	344	8 (1.7%)
Special	70	68	3 (4.3%)
Total	1313	1105	21 (1.6%)

The pattern over previous years is as follows:

Year	Incidents recorded	Incidents where action was taken	Incidents investigated by the Police or any other body
01/02	1056	1050 (99%)	26
02/03	1117	958 (88%)	22
03/04	1281	1127 (88%)	26
05/06	1313	1105 (84%)	21

The revised guidance documentation on recording and monitoring racist incidents was circulated to schools in the 2007 summer term. This guidance for 07/08 will significantly affect the number of incidents that involve ‘any other body.’ As of 07/08 schools are expected to seek advice and guidance from MECSS for all incidents which fulfil the Ofsted definition of a “serious incident”.²

Racist incidents broken down by district

Number of racist incidents recorded by schools (that submitted their data) during 2005-06, showing the quadrant in which the incidents took place:

	Primary Nursery & Special	Secondary Middle & Upper + Special/ESC	Total no of incidents 05/06
Broxbourne	82	90	172
Dacorum	115	61	176
East Herts	68	40	108
Hertsmere	77	43	120
North Herts	65	71	136
St Albans	103	96	199
Stevenage	58	33	91
Three Rivers	61	43	104
Watford	99	37	136
Welwyn/Hatfield	55	17	71

Ethnicities and gender of victims and perpetrators of racist incidents

The categories of ethnicity used are broadly those used in the 2001 national population census. The categories are in use in Hertfordshire schools for the

² Ofsted (Nov 2005) recommends ‘when dealing with serious incidents (such as repeated verbal abuse, or physical intimidation) the views of the head teacher and the relevant LA officer should be sought, before determining sanctions’

collection of data by ethnicity. Schools routinely collect information about ethnicity for admissions and monitoring purposes.

The data indicates that seven ethnic groups form 69.3% of victims in relation to racist incidents. They are White British, White Traveller Irish, Asian/Asian British (Pakistani), Mixed White/Black Caribbean, Asian/Asian British (Indian), Black/Black British (Caribbean) and Black/Black British (African).

Ethnicities and gender of victims of racist incidents 2005 – 06 compared with data from 2004-05:

Ethnicity	No of female victims		No of male victims		Total (as a percentage of all victims)		Ethnic Group as a percentage of all pupils in Herts schools
	04-05	05-06	04-05	05-06	04-05	05-06	
White British	96	46	166	104	262 (22%)	150 (13%)	80%
White Irish	1	10	2	0	3	10	0.6%
White Traveller (Irish heritage)	7	30	6	9	13	39 (3.3%)	0.1%
Gypsy/Roma	5	4	2	4	7	8	0.1%
Any other White background	18	16	20	32	38	48	3.9%
Italian	2	7	3	3	5	10	
Turkish	5	9	10	10	15	19	
Mixed White/Black Caribbean	46	48	83	104	129 (11%)	152 (13%)	1.2%
Mixed White/Black African	16	11	29	22	45	33	0.4%
Mixed White/Asian	9	9	10	24	19	33	0.9%
Any other mixed background	21	11	25	26	46	37	1.4%
Asian /Asian British (Indian)	39	45	76	66	115 (9.5%)	111 (9%)	1.6%
Asian/Asian British (Pakistani)	37	42	79	78	116 (10%)	120 (10%)	1.4%
Asian/Asian British (Bangladeshi)	15	12	26	40	41	52	0.7%
Any other Asian background	15	25	43	28	62	53	0.9%
Black/Black British (Caribbean)*	27	32	68	60	95 (9%)	92 (8%)	0.6%
Black/Black British (African)	53	56	74	93	127 (11%)	149 (13%)	1.2%
Any other Black background	9	4	17	8	26	12	0.2%
Chinese	11	5	5	9	16	14	0.4%
Any other ethnic group	10	19	19	19	29	38	0.5%
TOTAL	442 37%	441 (37%)	763 63%	739 (63%)	1209	1180	

White British victims form 13% of all victims and 80% of all pupils in Hertfordshire schools. The seven identified ethnic minority groups form 69.4% of all victims of racist incidents. These groups are significantly over represented compared with their representation in schools as a whole.

There is an over representation of males as victims of racist incidents for 04/05 (63%) and 05/06 (63%).

Ethnicities and gender of perpetrators of racist incidents 2005 – 06 compared with data from 2004 – 05:

Ethnicity	No of female perpetrators		No of male perpetrators		Total (as percentage of all perpetrators)		Ethnic Group as a percentage of all pupils in Herts schools
	04-05	05-06	04-05	05-06	04-05	05-06	
White British	262	206	940	795	1202 (85%)	1001 (80%)	80%
White Irish	2	3	10	12	12	15	0.6%
White Traveller (Irish heritage)	2	4	9	12	11 (0.7%)	16 (1.3%)	0.1%
Gypsy/Roma	2	1	9	3	11 (0.7%)	4 (0.3)	0.1%
Any other White background	5	2		14	5	16	3.9%
Italian	0	2	7	7	7	9	
Turkish	2	3	7	9	9	12	
Mixed White/Black Caribbean	2	8	18	27	20 (2%)	35 (2.8%)	1.2%
Mixed White/Black African	0	1	4	4	4	5	0.4%
Mixed White/Asian	0	5	4	5	1	10	0.9%
Any other mixed background	1	2	21	7	22	9	1.4%
Asian /Asian British (Indian)	3	2	7	9	10	11	1.6%
Asian/Asian British (Pakistani)	7	8	24	16	31 (3%)	24 (0.4%)	1.4%
Asian/Asian British (Bangladeshi)	2	0	10	13	12	13 (1%)	0.7%
Any other Asian background	5	0	9	5	14 (7%)	5	0.9%
Black/Black British (Caribbean)	9	8	14	18	23 (1.6%)	26 (2.1%)	0.6%
Black/Black British (African)	3	5	7	22	10	27	1.2%
Any other Black background	0	1	1	0	1	1	0.2%
Chinese	0	0	1	0	1	0	0.4%
Any other ethnic group	2	4	5	11	7	15	0.5%
TOTAL	309 22%	265 21%	1106 78%	989 79%	1413	1254	

The data indicates that in 05/06 80% of the racist incidents were perpetrated by the White British group who are 80% of the school population.

The data 05/06 indicates that minority ethnic groups were perpetrators in 20% of racist incidents. This is an increase of 5% from 04/05 (15%). Where this is in greater proportion than their representation in the school communities the percentages have been added in brackets. The groups concerned are White Traveller (Irish heritage), Gypsy/Roma, Mixed White/Black Caribbean, Asian/Asian British (Pakistani), any other Asian background, Black/Black British (Caribbean). However, some of these numbers are small and should be treated with caution.

The nature of incidents

The nature of incidents recorded by schools 2005-06:

Category of incident	Total number of incidents	
	2004-05	2005/06
Verbal abuse, racist language and/or racist name calling	845	923
Expression of prejudice/stereotyping	180	198
Teasing	145	164
Isolation/ignoring	24	50
Feeling harassed	39	81
Racist literature, insignia, graffiti, texted or written racism	29	28
Physical assault	23	48
Threats, including threatened assault	36	44

The 05/06 data indicates an increase in the nature of incidents within the categories of threats and actual physical assault, verbal abuse, racist language and/or racist name calling, expression of prejudice/stereotyping, teasing and isolation/ignoring compared with 04/05 data.