

Bullying and Racist Incidents in Herts: A Statistical Picture Report October 2008

The following report is intended to assist Hertfordshire schools in impact assessment and evaluation of practice in relation to preventing and dealing with bullying and racist incidents.

It draws on data from several sources.

Surveys commissioned within CSF in Hertfordshire:

- **Schools Survey of Bullying and Racist Incidents 2007/08** (*data from the 90% of reports received as of October 2008*)
- **Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire 2006** (*completed by 9600 pupils aged 9 to 15 in 112 schools across the primary and secondary phases*)
- **Viewpoint School Survey March 2007** (*completed by 1555 pupils in 17 schools across the primary, secondary, post 16 and special phases*)

(2008 data from the Health related Behaviour Questionnaire and Tell Us 3 will be available in an updated version of this report in January 2009)

Additional data sources available for Hertfordshire:

- **Counselling In Schools Service (CISS) 2006/07**
- **Exclusions data from IRIS 2007/08**

This report contains the following sections:

Headlines

1. School reported bullying
2. School reported racist incidents
3. Data by district
4. Frequency / prevalence of bullying
5. Frequency / prevalence of racism
6. Fear of bullying / Respect for others
7. The focus of bullying behaviour
8. Types of bullying
9. Types of racist incident
10. Where bullying happens
11. Trust in adults, trust in the system
12. Ethnicity and gender issues
13. Exclusions

Headlines

All schools report having an anti bullying policy.

All schools report having a racist incidents policy.

42% of schools report holding the DCSF Anti Bullying Charter.

More adults are reported to be victims of bullying and racism in schools than are perpetrators.

Recorded bullying in primary schools is at its lowest level in 4 years.

Recorded bullying in secondary schools is increasing.

Recorded racist incidents appear to have risen significantly in secondary schools.

<p>Average bullying cases 2007/08: Primary 2.09 Secondary 29.75 Special 19.07</p>
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<p>Average racist incidents 2007/08: Primary 1.83 Secondary 6.79 Special 2.69</p>
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Some schools are reporting the nature of bullying but not the focus, suggesting the need for greater enquiry by staff.

Racist bullying is reducing both in actual figures and relative to levels of racist incidents, suggesting that interventions are being successful in preventing escalation.

Bullying around appearance continues to be the most prevalent focus of bullying.

Boys are more likely to be both victims and perpetrators of bullying and racist incidents and account for 60% of the counselling support provided as a result of bullying or racism.

Data returns indicating that no bullying or racist incidents had been recorded were provided by 87 schools in 06/07 and 108 schools in 07/08. 52 schools provided nil returns for both years.

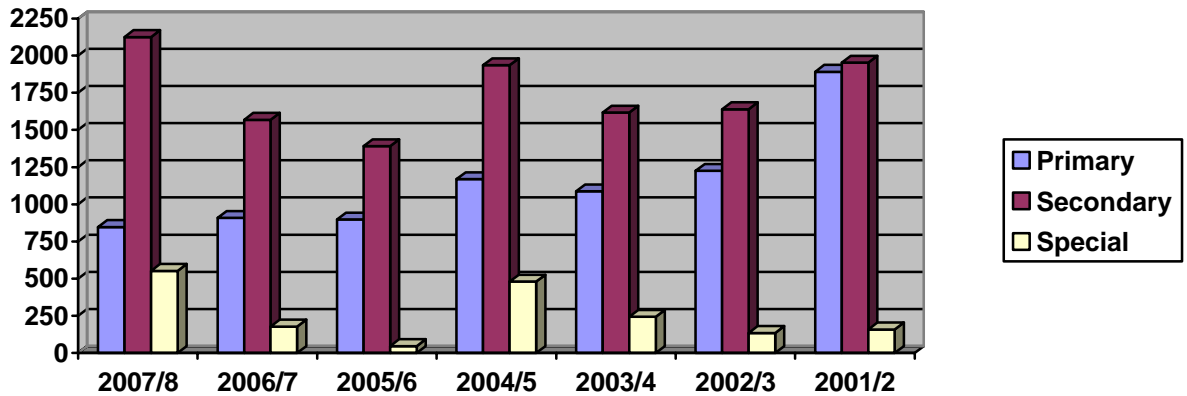
In interpreting data trends, it is important to note that:

- Increased awareness among school staff can affect reporting
- Increased confidence in pupils can affect reporting
- Underlying upward or downward trends can affect the levels of bullying and racist incidents
- Effective measures to combat bullying and racist incidents taken by schools can affect levels

1. School reported bullying

3526 bullying cases were reported by 483 schools (89%) in the 07/08 collection compared to 2655 bullying cases reported in 2006/07. The trend in bullying in secondary schools appears to be cyclic over 4 years whereas the trend in primary schools is downward. One Special school reported 400 more cases in 2007/08 than in the previous year.

Bullying Cases Reported by School Phase:

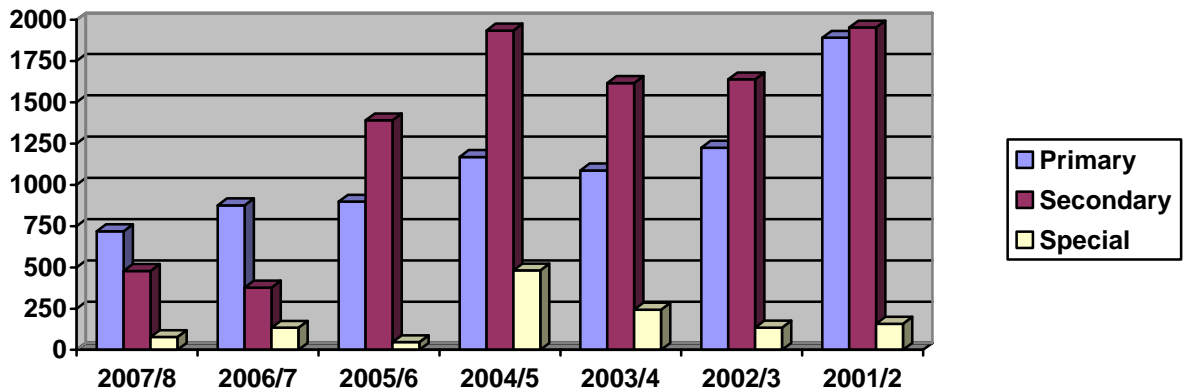


Schools recorded 88 cases where adults were the victims of bullying and 27 cases of adults perpetrating bullying.

2. School reported racist incidents:

1275 racist incidents were recorded by schools in the 07/08 collection compared with 1387 incidents the year before. Racist incidents recorded in primary schools have fallen (-18%) for the 4th consecutive year. In secondary schools recorded racist incidents fell in both 2005/06 and 2006/07, but this year it has increased by 97 incidents (+24%). In special schools incidents are down (-42%).

Racist Incidents Reported by School Phase:



Schools reported 88 incidents where adults were the victims of racism and 27 incidents of adults as perpetrators of racism. There were 12 cases of institutional racism and 25 incidents were perpetrated by persons outside of the school community.

3. Data by district

According to the schools bullying and racist incidents survey:

Bullying cases reported by district:

	Bullying 06/07 (% Herts total)	Incident rate per school 06/07	Bullying 07/08 (% Herts total) Adjusted data to remove single school	Incident rate per school 07/08 Adjusted data to remove single school
Broxbourne	198 (7%)	5.4	202 (7%)	5.2
Dacorum	501 (19%)	7.4	475 (16%)	7.0
East Herts DC	286 (11%)	4.1	258 (8%)	3.8
Hertsmere BC	146 (5%)	4.2	292 (9%)	7.7
North Herts	184 (7%)	2.9	393 (13%)	6.6
St. Albans C & D	521 (20%)	7.9	587 (19%)	8.8
Stevenage BC	382 (14%)	11.2	293 (10%)	9.5
3 Rivers DC	73 (3%)	2.6	109 (4%)	3.4
Watford BC	241 (9%)	7.3	369 (12%)	10.5
Welwyn Hatfield	123 (5%)	2.8	115 (4%)	2.6

Broxbourne and St Albans had the highest levels of school reported bullying in 2004/05 and 2005/06 which informed the districts to be served by the newly launched pilot mediation service. Over both the last 2 years highest levels as a percentage of all recorded incidents were recorded in St Albans and Dacorum. However, highest rates of incidents per school in 06/07 were in Stevenage (11.2) and in 07/08 were in Watford (10.5) and Stevenage (9.5). The recorded incident rate per school has continued to remain low in 3 Rivers and Welwyn Hatfield across both years.

Racist incidents reported by district:

	Racist incidents 06/07 (% Herts total)	Incident rate per school 06/07	Racist incidents 07/08 (% Herts total)	Incident rate per school 07/08
Broxbourne	169 (12%)	4.6	156 (12%)	4
Dacorum	214 (15%)	3.1	156 (12%)	2.3
East Herts DC	89 (6%)	1.3	78 (6%)	1.1
Hertsmere BC	137 (10%)	3.9	172 (13%)	4.5
North Herts	131 (9%)	2.1	141 (13%)	2.4
St. Albans C & D	195 (14%)	3.0	202 (16%)	3.0
Stevenage BC	133 (10%)	3.9	114 (9%)	3.7
3 Rivers DC	53 (4%)	1.9	57 (5%)	1.8
Watford BC	159 (11%)	4.8	111 (9%)	3.2
WelwynHatfield	107 (8%)	2.4	88 (7%)	2.0

In 06/07 Dacorum (15%) and St Albans (14%) recorded the highest percentage of all Hertfordshire's recorded racist incidents. The incident rate per school in 06/07 was highest in Watford (4.8), closely followed by Broxbourne (4.6).

In 07/08 the highest percentage of all Hertfordshire's racist incidents was recorded in St Albans (16%), Hertsmere (13%), North Herts (13%) and Broxbourne (12%). The incident rate per school was highest in Hertsmere (4.5),

The incident rate per school has remained relatively low across 2 years in East Herts and 3 Rivers.

According to the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire:

Have you been bullied at or near school in the last 12 months?

	No Primary	Don't know	Yes Primary	No Secondary	Don't know	Yes Secondary
Broxbourne	62%	12%	26%	66%	13%	21%
Dacorum	55%	13%	32%	66%	12%	22%
East Herts DC	63%	10%	27%	62%	15%	23%
Hertsmere BC	49%	19%	31%	68%	11%	21%
North Herts	62%	13%	24%	71%	12%	17%
St. Albans C & D	53%	11%	36%	66%	13%	21%
Stevenage BC	59%	14%	27%	61%	12%	27%
3 Rivers DC	60%	11%	30%	68%	16%	17%
Watford BC	62%	10%	28%	61%	12%	27%
Welwyn Hatfield	60%	13%	27%	55%	12%	34%

St Albans generates the highest level of bullying figures and North Herts the least according to the primary pupils involved in the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire. In the secondary phase, Welwyn Hatfield generates the most and again, North Herts, the least.

4. Frequency / prevalence of bullying

According to the Viewpoint Survey:

Of children answering the primary questionnaire:

- 61% said that bullying occurred 'Never' or 'Not very often'
 - 28% said that children bullied 'Sometimes'
 - 10% said that children bullied others 'A lot'
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- 19% said that they had been bullied in the last 7 days
 - 65% said they had not been bullied in the last 7 days
 - 17% said they did not know

Of young people answering the secondary questionnaire:

- 38% of KS3 & 26% of KS4 said bullying occurred 'Rarely' or 'Never'
- 44% of KS3 & 49% of KS4 said that bullying happened 'Sometimes'
- 19% of KS3 & 25% of KS4 said that bullying happened 'Often'

- 30% of KS3 & 30% of KS4 said they had been bullied in the last year
- 52% of KS3 and 58% of KS4 said that they had not
- 18% of KS3 and 12% of KS4 said they didn't know

According to the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire:

Of children answering the primary questionnaire:

- 59% said they had not been bullied in or near school in the last year
- 29% said that they had been bullied in or near school in the last year
- 13% said they didn't know

Of young people answering the secondary questionnaire:

- 65% said they had not been bullied in or near school in the last year
- 22% said that they had been bullied in or near school in the last year
- 13% said they didn't know

- 75% said they had not bullied others in the last year
- 8% said they had bullied others in the last year
- 17% didn't know

5. Frequency / prevalence of racism

According to the Viewpoint Survey:

Of young people answering the secondary questionnaire:

- 73% of KS3 & 57% of KS4 said that racism occurred at school 'never' or 'rarely'
- 20% of KS3 & 29% of KS4 said that racism occurred 'sometimes'
- 7% of KS3 & 13% of KS4 said that racism occurred 'often'
- 52% of Post 16 students report racism occurring 'often' or 'sometimes'

6. Fear of bullying / Respect for others

According to the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire:

Of children answering the primary questionnaire:

- 67% said they never felt afraid of going to school because of bullying
- 27% said they sometimes felt afraid of school because of bullying
- 3% said they often felt afraid of going to school because of bullying
- 2% said they felt afraid of school because of bullying very often

- 80% said 'no', others would not fear going to school because of them
- 18% said they didn't know
- 3% said 'yes', others feared coming to school because of them

Of young people answering the secondary questionnaire:

- 71% said they never felt afraid of going to school because of bullying
- 22% said they sometimes felt afraid of school because of bullying
- 3% said they often felt afraid of going to school because of bullying
- 3% said they felt afraid of school because of bullying very often

17% of all secondary pupils said they worried about bullying 'A lot' or 'Quite a lot'. 11% of year 10 boys compared with 23% of year 8 girls responded in this way. Fear of being bullied and worry about being bullied is higher than actual bullying. It is also higher among girls than it is among boys.

According to the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire:

Of children answering the primary questionnaire:

- 56% of year 5 boys agreed that people from different backgrounds are valued in their school
- 60% of year 5 girls agreed
- 64% of year 6 boys agreed
- 71% of year 6 girls agreed

Of young people answering the secondary questionnaire:

- 48% of year 8 boys agreed that people from different backgrounds are valued in their school
- 50% of year 8 girls agreed
- 49% of year 10 boys agreed
- 50% of year 10 girls agreed

7. The focus of bullying behaviour

According to the Schools Bullying and Racist Incidents Survey:

Focus of bullying recorded at schools	2006/07	2007/08
Appearance / Size	48%	49%
Racist	11%	7%
Disability	4%	5%
Sexualised	3%	5%
Faith	0%	1%
Ability	14%	7%
Gender	8%	14%
Class / socio-economic	7%	7%
Homophobic	5%	6%

In 2007/08, the focus of bullying was only recorded against 1669 of the 3526 bullying cases.

According to the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire:

Of children answering the primary questionnaire:

- 21% said they were bullied / picked on because of the way they look
- 17% said they were bullied or picked on because of their size or weight
- 9% said they were bullied or picked on for a reason not listed
- 6% said they were bullied / picked on because of the clothes they wear
- 6% said they were bullied or picked on because of their race, religion or colour
- 4% said they were bullied or picked on because of a disability
- 57% said they were not bullied or picked on for any of these reasons

Bullying around appearance is cited strongly by both boys and girls although girls are victims of this type of bullying more than boys. Although being bullied on the grounds of a disability does not appear to be prevalent, there is a marked difference between the sexes, with boys citing it as a reason for being bullied far more than girls. This may be because, statistically, more boys have a disability.

8. Types of Bullying**According to the Viewpoint Survey:**

Of children answering the primary questionnaire:

- 64% said they had been called names when describing bullying
- 44% said they had been hit, pushed or kicked when describing bullying
- 28% said they had had their things taken when describing bullying
- 11% said they had been sent nasty texts when describing bullying
- 11% said they had been sent nasty emails when describing bullying
- 11% said they had been 'happy slapped' when describing bullying

Of young people answering the secondary questionnaire:

- 85% of KS3 pupils said they had been called names
- 80% of KS4 pupils said they had been called names
- 46% of KS3 pupils said they had been hit, pushed or kicked
- 52% of KS4 pupils said they had been hit, pushed or kicked

According to the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire:

Of children answering the primary questionnaire:

- 14% had been called nasty names often or every day in the last month
- 11% had been teased / made fun of often / every day in the last month
- 8% had been pushed or hit for no reason
- 6% had been ganged up on often or every day in the last month
- 5% had been threatened for no reason
- 4% had had their belongings taken or broken

- 2% had been asked for money often or every day in the last month
- 1% had been bullied through their mobile phone
- 2% said that other types of bullying had happened
- 75% said that none of these had happened

According to the Schools Racist Incidents and Bullying Survey:

Bullying cases reported by type:

Nature of bullying recorded at schools	06/07	07/08
Perception	12%	12%
Isolation	4%	3%
Teasing	12%	13%
General prejudice / stereotyping	1.3%	2%
Literature, graffiti or insignia	0.4%	1%
Verbal abuse/name calling	35%	37%
Targeted graffiti / hurtful note writing	1%	0.7%
Threats, threatened physical assault	11%	8%
Mobile phone / text message	1.6%	2%
Internet related	2%	2%
Camera phone	0.2%	0.6%
Actual physical assault	18%	16%
Other	1.6%	1%

Verbal forms of bullying are increasing steadily, while physical assault has reduced slightly but is still high. Combined elements of cyberbullying remain comparatively low.

9. Types of racist incident

According to the Schools Annual Racist Incidents and Bullying Survey:

Racist Incidents reported by type:

Nature of racist incident recorded	06/07	07/08
Perception	9%	12%
Isolation	2%	2%
Teasing	10%	11%
General prejudice / stereotyping	18%	18%
Literature, graffiti or insignia	2%	2%
Verbal abuse/name calling	55%	48%
Targeted graffiti / hurtful note writing	1%	1%
Threats, threatened physical assault	2%	1%
Mobile phone / text message	0.4%	0%
Internet related	0.3%	0%
Camera phone	0.06%	0%
Actual physical assault	2%	2%
Other	0.4%	2%

Lower levels of physical assault for racist incidents when compared to bullying would suggest that earlier intervention prevents escalation (2.5% of racist incidents cited as physical assault compared with 16% of bullying cases).

10. Where bullying happens

According to the Viewpoint Survey:

Of children answering the primary questionnaire:

- 57% said bullying took place in the school playground
- 38% said bullying took place inside school
- 19% said bullying took place at a club or activity
- 18% said bullying took place in a park
- 15% said bullying took place on the way to and from school
- 14% said bullying took place in the street

Of young people answering the secondary questionnaire:

Where bullying has taken place:

	KS3	KS4
In the school grounds	67%	77%
In class at school	52%	63%
In the school corridors	43%	53%
On the way home from school	32%	36%
In the school toilets	17%	19%
On the way to school	16%	27%
In the park	16%	20%
In the street	15%	25%
At a club or activity	11%	14%
At a friends house	7%	14%
At my church/temple/mosque/synagogue	3%	8%
Somewhere else	11%	9%

According to the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire:

Of children answering the primary questionnaire:

- 16% said frequent bullying took place outside at lunch or break
- 12% said frequent bullying took place in a classroom at lunch or break
- 8% said frequent bullying in the last month took place at or near home
- 7% said frequent bullying took place during lesson time
- 7% said frequent bullying took place going out at other times of the day
- 5% said frequent bullying took place in the corridors
- 4% said frequent bullying took place on the way to and from school
- 2% said frequent bullying took place going out other times in the dark
- 3% said frequent bullying took place in the toilets
- 2% said frequent bullying took place somewhere else

11. Trust in adults, trust in the system

According to the Viewpoint Survey:

Of children answering the primary questionnaire:

- 88% said they could tell an adult at school if bullying was happening

Of young people answering the secondary questionnaire:

- 59% of KS3 pupils said they trusted the system for reporting bullying 'Mostly' or 'Definitely'
- 44% of KS4 pupils said they trusted the system for reporting bullying 'Mostly' or 'Definitely'
- 48% of KS5 pupils said they trusted the system for reporting bullying 'Mostly' or 'Definitely'
- 10% of KS3 pupils said they did not trust the system at all
- 19% of KS4 pupils said they did not trust the system at all

According to the Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire:

Of children answering the primary questionnaire:

- 73% of pupils thought that their school took bullying seriously
- 10% of pupils did not think their school took bullying seriously
- 16% of pupils didn't know

Of young people answering the secondary questionnaire:

- 53% said they thought their school took bullying seriously
- 20% said they thought their school did not take bullying seriously
- 26% did not know
- 50% said they would go to a family member first for help or information about bullying
- 27% said they would go to their friends
- 9% said they would go to someone in school
- 2% said they would go to a Connexions PA
- 1% said they would look on the internet
- 1% said they would call a telephone helpline
- There were no responses for Doctor / Nurse or other Health Worker, Local advice centres or books / magazines
- 26% said there were between 3 and 5 adults they could really trust
- 19% said there were between 6 and 10 adults they could really trust
- 13% said there were between 11 and 20 adults they could really trust
- 13% said there were only 2 adults they could really trust
- 12% said there were over 20 adults they could really trust
- 12% said there was only 1 adult they could really trust
- 5% said there were no adults they could really trust

12. Ethnicity & Gender issues

According to the Schools Racist Incidents and Bullying Survey:

- Boys are more likely to be both victims (62%) and perpetrators (71%) of bullying. These proportions have remained static across the last 2 years.
- The largest group of victims (86%) and perpetrators (84%) of bullying is White British pupils. Their proportion in the school-age population is 79%.
- Boys are more likely to be both victims (68%) and perpetrators (80%) of racist incidents. These proportions have remained static across the last 2 years.
- White British pupils are perpetrators of 78% of racist incidents. Their proportion in the school-age population is 79%.
- The following groups are showing higher levels as perpetrators relative to their proportion within the school age population: Travellers of Irish heritage, Turkish, White/Black Caribbean and Bangladeshi pupils.
- The following groups are showing higher levels as victims of racist incidents relative to their proportion within the school age population: White/Black Caribbean, Caribbean, Pakistani and Indian pupils.
- Relative to their proportion in the school population the following groups of girls are more likely to be victims of racist incidents: African girls 14.9% (2% of girl population), Pakistani girls 10.5% (2% of girl population), Traveller girls of Irish Heritage 2.8% (<1% of girl population).

Trends in ethnicity 2006/7 to 2007/8:

- Ethnic groups showing an increase as perpetrators of bullying include: Any other white (16 – 55), White / Black Caribbean (38 – 69), White / Black African (15 – 26), other mixed (19 – 44), African (30 – 82).
- Ethnic groups showing a decrease as perpetrators of bullying include: Bangladeshi (30 – 15).
- Ethnic groups showing an increase as victims of bullying include: Any other white (34 – 50).
- Ethnic groups showing a decrease as victims of bullying include: Traveller (12 – 5).
- Ethnic groups showing an increase as perpetrators of racist incidents include: Irish (2 – 9), Italian (3 – 9), Turkish (6 – 14), White / Black Caribbean (27 – 41), Bangladeshi (12 – 26).
- Ethnic groups showing a decrease as perpetrators of racist incidents include: White / Black African (15 – 7), Pakistani (42 – 21).
- Ethnic groups showing an increase as victims of racist incidents include: Irish (3 – 9).
- Ethnic groups showing a decrease as victims of racist incidents include: White / Black Caribbean (124 – 94).

The Counselling In Schools Service (CISS) is one of the key providers of counselling support to individual children in Hertfordshire Schools. For each case undertaken it monitors the focus of the counselling sessions. In 2006/07 the majority of support provided as a result of experiences of bullying or racism was accessed by secondary pupils. Boys accounted for 60% of take up for counselling as a result of bullying or racism.

13. Exclusions

Additional information from IRIS.

Bullying / Racist Abuse cited as reason for permanent exclusions:

	2006/07	2007/08
Bullying	5	2
Racist Abuse	1	0

For further information please contact:

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