

Wiltshire LEA

RACE EQUALITY MATTERS AUTUMN UPDATE

Action Required:

- **Future completed copies of Racist Incident form (RI1a) to be sent to LEA.**
- **Electronic copy of School Race Equality Policy to be sent to LEA by end of the Autumn term.**

Racist Incident Logs:

Following this year's feedback on racist incidents in schools, you may be aware of the fact that there was a three-fold rise in the number of reported incidents. We would like to make clear that this figure does not necessarily represent a sudden dramatic increase in the number of incidents occurring, but that in general, it is more likely to be a reflection of a very healthy increased awareness and sensitivity to race equality issues. From this perspective, we would like to express thanks and appreciation to the many schools who have taken great care to be vigilant and alert in keeping records in their racist incident logs.

In order to build on this vigilance in terms of a concerted county-wide response to the issues, and with a desire to help and support schools as effectively and promptly as we can, it has become apparent that the best way to improve this support will be to enable the LEA to consider a broad overview of the types of incidents that are being recorded. Although this information is already being received in a quantitative and categorised

form on an annual basis, it is thought that a more progressive overview throughout the year would assist the LEA in providing support. **Therefore, in future we are asking schools if they could please send a copy of each racist incident pro-forma (RI 1a) to the LEA *at the time each incident is logged.***

Our intention is to ensure that schools do not feel alone and unsupported in tackling these issues as they arise, and to therefore allow the flow of information and the more finely tuned reporting which we welcome, to continue.

We understand that a key aspect of this information is the assurance from schools to all parties involved in such incidents that anonymity will be maintained in any communication with the LEA. As we do not wish to compromise this assurance, we suggest that schools maintain that anonymity by sending a separate copy of the form to the LEA, omitting the names of those involved. Alternatively, you may wish to record incidents in a separate log-

book, and use RI 1a solely for the purpose of informing the LEA.

A copy of form RI 1a will be sent to you with this update, and we would be grateful if you could send copies of any future completed forms to:

Pam Carroll
Consultant for Race Equality and Ethnic Minority Achievement
Ethnic Minority Achievement Service
East Wing
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
BA14 8JQ

Please note that this request is not retrospective, and we do not wish you to forward any previously held copies of the form.

If you have any queries, either regarding form RI 1a, or more generally in respect of help and advice in responding to racist incidents in your school, please contact either **Pam Carroll on 07789 067022** or **Maggie Dorsman on: 01225 713517**.

Race Equality Policy:

In addition to this request, all schools will be aware that their Race Equality Policy should now be in place, either as a discrete item, or as a clear and separate section of their broader Equal Opportunities Policy. The deadline for having these policies in place was **May 31st, 2002**. Could we now request that all schools send their policies electronically to the following address, where they will be stored. Should you wish to update or amend your policy at any stage, please send a copy of your revisions or amendments, and your policy will be updated. **Could you please send your Race Equality Policy as**

soon as possible, and by the end of the Autumn term at the latest to:

maggiedorsman@wiltshire.gov.uk

Action Planning Template:

In connection with the stated aims, objectives and initiatives of your Race Equality policy, please find attached with this Race Equality Matters update, a copy of our **Action Planning Template**, which has been designed to both complement and progress your Race Equality Policy to a further stage of development for your school. Please call either **Graham Paton** or **Pam Carroll** should you have any queries in connection with using the template.

Race Equality Training:

Finally, could we also bring to your attention our provision of Race Equality training, which continues to be offered free of charge for the foreseeable future. This training is undertaken by the LEA in collaboration with the Wiltshire Racial Equality Council, and offers practical and thought provoking sessions which provide assistance in the areas of policy and procedure, together with practical suggestions for race equality in the curriculum. For all queries regarding training, please contact:

Graham Paton: Advisory Teacher for Citizenship and PSHE: 01380 733808.

Pam Carroll: Consultant for Race Equality and Ethnic Minority Achievement

Graham Paton: Advisory Teacher for Citizenship and PSHE