

What we want you to know about racism

Challenge racism – we want you to:

- Take our concerns seriously when we report a racist incident.
- Ask us and listen to how we would like incidents to be dealt with.
- Get educated about race and racism so you can address it in your practice and in our school community.
- Don't treat racism the same as bullying.
- Build positive relationships with individuals and communities in our school to create safe places and people to talk to.

A poem:

I always thought there was something wrong with me.
That's just etched into my brain.
I suppose, too white to hang out with the black kids
and too black to hang out with... I don't fit in with you all.
You're gonna deal with it your entire life
Toughen up
They're joking
They're laughing
You'll grow out of it
Be more empathetic
If anyone says you're a monkey, just beat them up
Just be ok
They wouldn't understand.
All I wanted to do was rot in my bed all day
I don't cry... not cried in ages actually.
What's the point of even bothering to tell... What are they gonna do about it?
What is a half-hearted 'I'm sorry' going to do?
Oh, is she adopted?
You think my skin colour is beautiful?
It's getting a bit boring at this point
Who's the problem?
Are they the problem?
Am I the problem?
How could I possibly be more African?
Am I really that mean?
I'm terrible.
It's not called blackism...
Not whiteism...
It's racism.
I think I've got everything out. That was a bit all over the place.

What we want you to know about racism in our school:

Why we don't report racism:

- It's unlikely you would do anything. We're unclear on what staff can actually do.
- In the past, when we reported incidents, usually nothing happened.
- For some of us, this is the first time we've ever experienced racism.
- Some of us have experienced racism throughout our lives.
- We can feel as though racism isn't going anywhere, so we should just learn to live with it.

Our experiences:

"People throwing things or laughing at me... not wanting to sit next to me."

"People touching my hair without asking and making inappropriate comments about braids."

"Teachers skipping your name on the register because they can't pronounce it."

"In the staircase... someone threw a bottle on my head and then spat on me."

"Mistaking my name for another black girl... three times."

"The teacher told me to speak properly."

"One day I got off the bus... they were making monkey noises at me and I was alone."

"Asking for the N-word pass."

"Using racist stereotypes."

"Peers looking round the room and saying 'look, we're surrounded' at me and my Black friends."

"This group of boys I sit beside. They're always talking about how Black people like watermelon and chicken... 'Just laugh it off.'"

Additional Information:

This leaflet was produced as part of a research project in a Dundee school (August–December 2024). Black and minority ethnic young people took part as co-researchers creating artistic artefacts, narrations and co-analysing data.

For feedback or enquiries:

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For more information on anti-racist education:

Education Scotland's Glow Blog – "Promoting Race Equality and Anti-Racist Education" for Scottish practitioners.