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Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg  
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/JMEWL/2026/22

Jayne Bryant MS  
Chair – Children, Young People and Education Committee

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13 June 2022

Dear Jayne,

Thank you for your letter of 24 May regarding racist bullying in schools. You raised a number of questions, to which I respond as follows.

### **Support for schools to address issues of racially motivated bullying**

Every one of our education settings in Wales should be an inclusive, engaging environment where everyone's well-being is considered and everyone feels accepted, safe and ready to learn.

The Welsh Government's suite of guidance '[Rights, respect, equality](#)' provides statutory guidance for both governing bodies of maintained schools, and local authorities to help address and prevent bullying and harassment in education settings in Wales. This includes racially motivated bullying and harassment. We also provide information and factsheets on racism and racist bullying and harassment on Hwb.

The Welsh Government funds training for school leaders, practitioners and governors focussed on anti-bullying, and which implements our anti-bullying guidance. Currently, this is delivered by two leading anti-bullying charities – the Anti-Bullying Alliance and Kidscape. Accessing this training is voluntary, and I have been clear to urge all schools to engage with this training and learning.

Local Authorities play an important role in supporting schools to address racism and racially motivated bullying in schools. Many access training and resources via organisations such as Show Racism the Red Card, as well as providing their own anti-bullying guidance for schools.

The Welsh Government also funds Victim Support Cymru to run the Wales Hate Support Centre, which provides support to all victims of hate in Wales, including children and young people, as well as providing training and awareness raising on this issue.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

## **Support for schools to implement the updated anti-bullying guidance**

The Welsh Government's Anti-racist Wales Action Plan, published on 7 June, sets out a number of goals and actions to embed an anti-racist culture in schools to make 'meaningful and measurable changes' to the lives of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people. The plan also brings together work across education, including updating statutory anti-bullying guidance, to reflect our vision for a truly anti-racist Wales.

While we will deliver on our commitment to update our anti-bullying guidance by the beginning of the next academic year, we will build on this guidance further by working with the Children's Commissioner for Wales over the next few months, to engage with children and young people, as well as our teachers and education practitioners.

The current training delivered by the Anti-Bullying Alliance and Kidscape is due to end in July 2022. While new provision was originally planned for September 2022, my officials are now in the process of considering how this future provision would best fit with our longer-term work, in light of further communication with the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

Therefore, I expect the current training provision we have in place to continue until March 2023, which will of course implement the current revisions to the guidance. Future training for practitioners will then be developed, in line with our future guidance and resources focused on anti-bullying and anti-racism. We will ensure that this provision will be suited to the needs of teachers and practitioners, and work alongside the Diversity and Anti-Racism Professional Learning (DARPL) programme.

## **Encouragement to access the anti-bullying training**

The Welsh Government's anti-bullying training for school leaders, delivered by Kidscape, has been in place since November 2020. Since July 2021, the training for school leaders has been accompanied by anti-bullying training for school governors, delivered by both the Anti-Bullying Alliance and Kidscape.

Since November 2020, representatives of 129 schools in Wales have attended the workshops for school leaders. Since July 2021, representatives of 82 schools in Wales have attended the training for school governors.

In addition, in 2020 and 2021, the Welsh Government provided the Anti-Bullying Alliance with funding to deliver Anti-Bullying Week across Wales, which takes place in November. In 2021, 91% of schools in Wales participated in Anti-Bullying Week, and there were over 4000 downloads of the primary and secondary school packs – a 600% increase on 2020 (641 downloads).

Practitioners, school leaders and governors are encouraged to access and attend the current anti-bullying training via a range of different avenues.

The Welsh Government regularly publicises training opportunities via our educational newsletter, Dysg. My officials also regularly publicise the workshops to our network of school governors and leads within local authorities.

As part of the development of further resources, guidance and new training for schools, my officials will consider how we can strengthen our communication to encourage every school in Wales to undertake this important training.

## Data collection

Currently, the Welsh Government does not collect data on incidences of bullying and harassment, including racially motivated bullying, at a national level. Our anti-bullying guidance does not mandate schools and local authorities to collect data, however it does set out our clear expectation that maintained education settings should collect this data, and that it should be broken down by type of incident.

In practice, Welsh local authorities do collect data on bullying and harassment, and this is broken down by type of incident. However, the recording of incidents is very inconsistent, both in terms of level of detail when reporting and collecting data, as well as the systems being used by schools and local authorities.

Our Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan includes the following action:

*Require reporting of racist incidents and harassment in schools and colleges through strengthened data collection, how they were dealt with, action taken in response and whether the incident was resolved successfully for the victim.*

Therefore, we are now considering a Wales-wide system of reporting and data collection which will specifically collect data in relation to bullying and harassment, including on the basis of protected characteristics. This new system will help us bridge the current gap in data and gain a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic learners.

Yours sincerely,



**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

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