

Jeremy Miles MS

Minister for Education and Welsh Language

15 August 2023

Racism in school

Dear Jeremy

As you are aware, I recently met with EYST who raised concerns about levels and impact of racist bullying in schools across Wales. During this meeting, they outlined some very concerning cases and highlighted a number of issues, including:

- Under-reporting and recording of bullying incidents as being racist in nature;
- Challenges in reporting racist bullying; and
- Links between racist bullying, school exclusions and ethnic minority pupils.

They have also written to the Committee, and I have enclosed a copy of the letter. They raise a number of questions and we would welcome your views on these issues.

We are aware that the [Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan](#) identifies a lack of data on racist bullying and harassment in schools, meaning it is difficult to understand the scale of the problem and the barriers faced by children and young people who experience racism. You will recall a similar issue regarding a lack of specific data on types of bullying and harassment was identified in our inquiry into peer on peer sexual harassment last year.

The Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan states that the Welsh Government is “currently 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.” Can you provide us with



an update on how this work is progressing and when you are anticipating decisions being made about what will be recorded and how?

We also understand that work is underway in revising the anti-bullying guidance "Rights, Respect, Equality". Can you update us on when this revised guidance will be published, and how it will take account of the specific nature and impact of racist bullying. Finally, how you will be supporting local authorities and schools to deliver on this guidance?

We would appreciate a response by 4 October 2023.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS
Chair

Enclosure: Correspondence from EYST

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

