

Craigroyston Primary Anti Bullying and Discrimination Procedure

November 2023

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

City of Edinburgh Council is strongly committed to providing a safe environment for all people in its educational establishments. We are committed to ensuring positive relationships. Bullying, prejudice and discrimination are never acceptable and children, young people and staff have the right to learn and work in a safe, fair and secure environment.

This school procedure follows the City of Edinburgh Council's Communities and Families Procedure on 'Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice amongst Children and Young People' (2020) which is based on '*Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People*'.

The emotional health and wellbeing of children, young people and staff is essential for our children to have the best start to life and to have successful life chances. We are committed to developing positive relationships between all in the school community, children, young people, staff and parents. Our core practices are the 4 Rs: Relationships, Rights Respecting, Resilience, Restorative.

We are 'Rights Informed, Rights Embedded'. This procedure covers the following articles of the UNCRIC:

- Article 2 – You have the right to protection against discrimination.
- Article 19 – You have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated.
- Article 29 – You have the right to an education which develops your personality and your respect for other's rights and the environment.

This procedure has been revised and updated in consultation with staff, parent and pupil groups.

OUR VALUES AND BELIEFS

We are committed to enabling every learner at Craigroyston Primary to gain the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for life in the 21st century. We enact this vision through our lived values *respect, ambition, resilience and empathy* and by

Through learning both within and beyond the classroom we aim to develop:

- successful learners
- confident individuals
- responsible citizens
- effective contributors

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY BULLYING?

"Bullying is both behaviour and impact; the impact is on a person's capacity to feel in control of themselves. This is what we term as their sense of 'agency'. Bullying takes place in the context of relationships; it is behaviour that can make people feel hurt, threatened, frightened and left out. This behaviour happens face to face and online". (respect*me* 2015)

Bullying behaviours can take many forms. Examples of bullying behaviours include:

- name calling, teasing, putting down or threatening
- ignoring, leaving out or spreading rumours
- hitting, tripping, kicking
- taking and damaging belongings
- sending an abusive text, email or instant message, or posting an abusive comment on a social networking site (online or cyber-bullying)
- targeting someone because of who they are or who they are perceived to be.

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DISCRIMINATION, PREJUDICE-BASED BULLYING AND THE EQUALITY ACT 2010

Bullying behaviour can often be rooted in prejudice and discrimination due to difference or a perceived difference. We are committed to challenging discrimination, prejudice-based bullying and language, and to fulfilling our duty under the Equality Act 2010.

The Equality Act 2010 sets out rights which include legal protection from discrimination to any of the nine protected characteristics: **disability; race; sex; pregnancy/maternity; religion/belief; sexual orientation; gender re-assignment; age; marriage/civil partnership**

Note: In relation to the education of children and young people, the protected characteristics of age, marriage and civil partnership are not included.

We recognise that children and young people can also experience bullying in relation to: asylum seeker or refugee status; body image; being care experienced; social or economic status; young carer responsibilities; *ethnicity, race, religion, disability, additional support needs*, imprisonment of parents/carers, siblings, or other family members.

We recognise that children and young people can experience disadvantage, prejudice or discrimination because of any of these individual factors or a combination of factors.

HATE INCIDENT OR HATE CRIME

A bullying incident is a hate incident if the victim or anyone else thinks it was carried out because of hostility or prejudice based on actual or perceived disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity. If the incident is a criminal offence and the offender targeted the victim because of their prejudice or hostility based on any of these characteristics, this is a hate crime. All hate crimes should be reported to Police Scotland through the School Link Officer. In the case of hate incidents, the designated member of staff / Equality Co-ordinator should seek advice from the School Link Officer.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND REPORTING BULLYING, PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION INCIDENTS

Headteachers are responsible for the introduction and implementation of this procedure. However, all staff, all pupils and their parents/carers must play an active part in following the guidance and putting it into practice. Teachers and support staff are expected to be pro-active, to treat all allegations seriously and to refer reports of incidents to the Equalities Co-ordinator / designated member of the senior leadership team. The incident is recorded accurately with future actions detailed.

The Equalities Co-ordinator, in consultation with the Head Teacher, is required to:

- ensure that all allegations are reported and recorded rigorously
- monitor SEEMiS Bullying and Equalities module reports regularly, at least termly
- monitor and report annually on the implementation of this procedure
- supervise the review and updating of this procedure at least every three years

Pupils are asked to:

- report all incidents and suspected incidents of any type of bullying, discrimination or prejudice that they *experience* to a member of staff, where it is safe for them to do so
- report all incidents and suspected incidents of bullying, discrimination and prejudice that they *see* to a member of staff, where it is safe for them to do so
- support each other and to seek help from a member of staff, to ensure that everyone feels safe and nobody feels excluded or afraid in school
- if they don't feel able to speak to a member of staff or parent/ carer they should contact Childline for advice.

All school staff are required to:

- be pro-active in implementing the procedure
- treat all allegations and observation of bullying, discrimination and prejudiced behaviour or language seriously

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- seek to address incidents, where appropriate
- record any incidents on a Wellbeing Concern form
- inform the Equalities Co-ordinator / designated member of staff of all incidents.

Parents/carers are asked to:

- be aware of *respectme*, Scotland's Anti-bullying Service booklet – Bullying Behaviour: A Guide for Parents and Carers (available at <http://respectme.org.uk/resources/publications/>)
- work collaboratively and respectfully with staff, children and young people (and other parents/carers where appropriate and supported by the school) to help ensure bullying, discrimination and prejudice cannot thrive
- speak to any member of staff (the class teacher, guidance teacher or member of senior leadership team) if they have any concerns about bullying, discrimination and prejudice experienced by their child or by another child / children at the time of the incident or as soon as possible thereafter
- encourage their children to be positive members of our school community
- monitor closely their child's use of mobile phone and the internet and to intervene if there is a suspicion that these are being used inappropriately
- understand that we seek to understand the experiences and address the needs of all children and young people who experience bullying, discrimination or prejudiced behaviour as well as those who present bullying, discrimination or prejudiced behaviour. We do this within a framework of respect, responsibility, resolution and support
- speak to the Head Teacher if their concerns continue following initial intervention
- be aware that they can contact a relevant external organisation for advice and support
- be aware of the school's complaints procedure and the Council's Advice and Conciliation Service and their rights with regard to these procedures.

PROMOTION OF EQUALITY

Through the Curriculum for Excellence, we:

- increase knowledge of children's rights and responsibilities as responsible citizens.
- challenge stereotypes, bias and discrimination, including prejudice-based attitudes and language.
- deliver an inclusive curriculum that reflects all identities: disability; race; sex; pregnancy/maternity; religion/belief; sexual orientation; gender reassignment; age; marriage/civil partnership as well as asylum seeker or refugee status; body image; being care experienced; social or economic status; young carer responsibilities; imprisonment of parents/carers, siblings, or other family members (as appropriate to age/stage). This enables our children to develop their sense of understanding and inclusion of others as well as seeing themselves reflected in the learning community.
- provide age-appropriate reading materials and resources that positively reflect and represent diversity and reflect the protected characteristics
- teach Critical Literacy
- build resilience and empathy in young people as confident individuals.
- raise awareness about bullying and our Anti-Bullying Procedure across a range of school subjects.

Prevention: Creating an Anti Bullying and Anti Racist Culture

By promoting a positive school ethos, with a focus on rights, equalities and health and wellbeing, we hope to prevent bullying, prejudice and discrimination happening. We:

- update posters and school displays regularly and use them to remind pupils that bullying, prejudice and discrimination are not acceptable and what to do if they or someone they know is being bullied or experiencing prejudice
- ensure our pupil Equalities Committee actively supports the school's work on prevention of bullying, prejudice and discrimination

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- Maintain bullying, prejudice and discrimination and other equality-related issues as standing agenda items at staff meetings, Pupil Council meetings and Parent Council meetings
- carry out regular surveys and focus groups to evaluate ethos and health and wellbeing in our school
- hold diversity, anti-bullying projects to raise the profile of these issues SHANARRI Week, assemblies, class events, Police Scotland events
- enable pupils to be Rights informed; pupils are empowered to become active citizens and learners
- ensure our staff receive regular training to increase their awareness and understanding of all forms of bullying, prejudice and discrimination as well as to develop skills in restorative practice
- share good practice with our cluster
- use our public platforms to share:
 - the vision, aims and values of the school
 - promote the positive impact that the inclusive ethos of the school has
 - outline key information for pupils, parents and carers on accessing support and help

SUPPORT

How we support pupils who are bullied or experience prejudice and discrimination

See also supplementary guidance below on preventing and responding to incidents of prejudice and discrimination related to the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010.

We:

- listen to the child or young person
- reassure them that they have done the right thing by telling
- encourage them to talk about how they feel, find out what happened and who was involved
- involve them in making choices about how the matter could be resolved
- discuss strategies for being safe and staying safe
- ask them to report any further incidents to us straight away
- affirm that we will persist with intervention until the bullying stops
- say clearly what will happen next and that we will update them on progress
- once the incident has been resolved, monitor and check that bullying has not started again

What happens next?

- The member of staff who receives the report will record the incident on a Wellbeing Concern form and discuss next steps with the Head Teacher
- At all times, child protection procedures and/or Risk Management procedures should be followed, if necessary
- In most cases, further investigation will be done by the Head Teacher, Depute Head Teacher or Principal Teacher
- Further investigation may involve:
 - Speaking with the children or young people involved, preserving confidentiality
 - Speaking with children or young people or others who witnessed the incident, preserving confidentiality.
 - Speaking with parents (*after consultation with the child or young person*)
 - Seeking advice from partner services and relevant organisations
- In all cases where there may be criminal implications (e.g. sexual assault or hate crime), the HT/DHT/PT will report this to Police Scotland
- In the case of hate incidents, the HT/PT will seek advice from Police Scotland
- If it is found that bullying, prejudice or discrimination has taken place, we will take appropriate and proportionate action (see examples of possible actions below)

- If it is found that bullying, prejudice or discrimination has not taken place, we will speak with the child or young person who reported the incident and offer further support if needed
- At all times, we will update the child or young person who reported bullying, prejudice or discrimination

Our work with pupils who bully others or present prejudiced or discriminatory attitudes / behaviour

A child or young person who is bullying someone else may not be doing this consciously but the impact of bullying, prejudice or discrimination is still felt and this is taken seriously. Pupils who engage in bullying behaviour or present prejudiced or discriminatory attitudes / behaviour will be treated fairly and consistently using actions that are proportionate and appropriate to the age and stage of the child and to the incident (see below). We:

- interview the pupil (or pupils) involved in the incident separately
- listen to their version of events and take time to discover the reasons for the behaviour
- talk to anyone who may have witnessed the incident
- reinforce the message that bullying, prejudice and discrimination are not acceptable, and that we expect it to stop
- address prejudicial or discriminatory attitudes that may be behind the behaviour
- seek a commitment to stop bullying
- affirm that it is right for pupils to let us know when they are being bullied
- consider what support the pupil needs and whether other referrals are required, e.g. educational psychologist, counsellor.
- in all cases where there may be criminal implications (e.g. sexual assault or hate crime), report this to Police Scotland
- in the case of hate incidents, seek advice from Police Scotland.
- advise pupils responsible for bullying, prejudice or discrimination that we check to ensure that the behaviour stops
- contact the parents of the pupil(s) at an early stage.
- follow up after incidents to check that the bullying, prejudiced or discriminatory behaviour has not started again in any form

Our actions may include:

- restorative practices, including acknowledging grievances
- involvement of a parent/carer where appropriate
- peer mentoring and mediation
- de-escalation strategies
- physical separation of person/people presenting bullying, prejudiced or discriminatory behaviour, where necessary and possible
- use of support base to increase confidence and provide support
- consequences, including loss of privileges
- assessment of additional support needs, including counselling, for the person being bullied or experiencing prejudiced or discriminatory behaviour or for the person who is bullying or displaying prejudiced or discriminatory behaviour
- involvement of other agencies and partners in health, police and voluntary sector
- referral to specific support service, such as Psychological Services, Education Welfare Service, Social Work or Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

Note: Exclusion from school is not itself a sanction or punishment for bullying, prejudiced or discriminatory behaviour and would only be used in specific circumstances and as a last resort.

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Online bullying and bullying outside the school premises

We know that bullying, prejudice and discrimination can occur outside the school gates and via mobile phones and social network internet sites. The behaviour may be presented by pupils from our own school, by pupils from other schools or by people who are not at school at all. Where a pupil or parent informs us of bullying, prejudice or discrimination out with the school premises we will:

- talk to pupils about how to avoid or handle these incidents outside of school
- talk to the Head Teacher of any other school(s) whose pupils are allegedly presenting bullying, discrimination and prejudiced behaviour
- talk to the police, if appropriate.

Follow-up

When the incident has been resolved, we monitor and check with the child or young person that bullying has not started again.

RECORDING AND MONITORING BULLYING INCIDENTS

The Head Teacher, Depute Head Teacher or Principal Teacher will record all incidents in the Bullying and Equalities module in SEEMiS.

The following information is recorded:

- the person experiencing the behaviour
- the person displaying the behaviour
- the nature and category of the incident
- the perceived reason(s) for bullying
- actions already taken and future actions
- conclusion (being addressed, resolved, not resolved, unfounded).

All incidents should be recorded. Records should include whether the incident is bullying, and/or prejudice-based and the nature of this. If there is any dispute or doubt (on the part of any individual) about whether the incident was or was not bullying or prejudice, the incident and the doubts should be recorded.

The designated member of senior leadership team will:

- ensure that this procedure is implemented.
- monitor SEEMiS reports on regular basis, at least termly.

Records of bullying, discrimination and prejudice-based incidents will be collected centrally from SEEMiS by the local authority from August 2020 on a termly basis.

COMMUNICATING THIS PROCEDURE

We promote our anti-bullying procedure throughout the session. By:

- publishing this procedure on our school website
- ensuring our in-school displays around the school advising pupils how they can report bullying, discrimination and prejudice, or seek confidential help is up to date
- regularly reviewing our procedures for pupils to report incidents or concerns
- signposting parents/ carers to this procedure in school newsletters

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- reinforcing this procedure through assemblies and class learning/ discussions.

CONCERNS AND FEEDBACK

We recognise that there may be times when pupils or parents/carers feel that we have not dealt well with an incident of bullying, discrimination and prejudice or a wider community issue. If a pupil or parent/carer feels that an incident/issue has not been fully resolved to their satisfaction, we ask them to contact the Head Teacher in the first instance.

If the Head Teacher cannot resolve these concerns informally, parents/carers can raise their concerns more formally through the school's Complaints Procedure. If early resolution at this stage is not achieved, then parents/carers can use the Council's Advice and Conciliation Service. We are also pleased to receive positive feedback from parents/carers when things have gone well.

At any time, a pupil or parent/carer can seek advice and support from an external organisation.

EVALUATING AND REVIEWING OUR PROCEDURE

We evaluate the effectiveness of this procedure on an annual basis, reviewing the number of incidents that are reported alongside the attendance, exclusions, attainment and achievement of pupils in protected groups. Pupils' perceptions and experiences of bullying are reviewed through questionnaires and focus groups. Feedback received from parents is also taken into consideration. The procedure is reviewed formally every 3 years (next due November 2026).

Tackling Racist Incidents and Creating an Anti-Racist Culture

This supplementary guidance for staff should be read alongside the Communities and Families 'Procedure for Preventing and Responding to Bullying and Prejudice' and your establishment procedure.

This guidance should be known and followed by all staff and administered by the Head Teacher. Whilst this guidance focuses on responding to racist incidents experienced by children and young people, the principles apply equally to racist incidents experienced by staff and parents from minority ethnic backgrounds. Incidents experienced by staff will be dealt with using the relevant Council policies and procedures.

1. WHAT IS RACISM?

Racism is when someone is discriminated against because of their race, the colour of their skin, nationality, ethnicity (includes culture, religion and language) or national origin.

A racist incident is any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person. (*The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry 1999, Recommendation 12*)

Any incident which is perceived to be racist must be recorded and investigated with rigour, commitment and transparency. Whether or not the person responsible intended their behaviour or actions to be racist is irrelevant. When dealing with an incident, the person's intentions and attitudes are an important consideration in the investigation. However, at the stage of initial recording and investigating, their attitudes, motivation and awareness are not the main issue. The main issue is that they have behaved in a racist manner.

What can racism look like? Examples include:

- isolating or marginalising someone because of the colour of their skin, nationality, ethnicity (ethnicity includes culture, religion and language) or national origin
- verbal or non-verbal abuse, e.g. threats, derogatory name-calling, gestures, racist jokes
- damage to property
- physical assault and harassment, e.g. hitting, tripping, pushing, kicking
- visual - racist text or images such as posters, notices or graffiti
- incitement of others to behave in a racist manner
- cyber - using social media to promote or incite racism
- provocative behaviour such as wearing racist badges or insignia
- refusal to co-operate with other pupils because of their race or ethnicity, or their perceived race or ethnicity

Many of these behaviours can also take place online, through social media or messaging platforms.

Racist language, negative views and their impact on children and young people

Racist language, stereotypes and jokes around the school can exclude, threaten, hurt or humiliate young people, whether experienced directly or indirectly. Sometimes, racist language can be used without malice or understanding, but this does not mean that it has no impact on young people who hear it used in this way. Both minority ethnic young people and the wider school community may be seriously affected by these negative messages. The cumulative effect on the emotional and mental health of minority ethnic children and young people should not be under-estimated. It can lead to:

- loss of self-esteem; feelings of exhaustion
- reduced ability to thrive in an environment
- mistrust of peers, staff and the 'system'
- decreased participation and ability to study
- underachievement
- reduced attendance.

Not all racist incidents would be considered bullying. For example, a teacher might observe a young person telling a racist joke which isn't directed at anyone in particular. This should still be addressed and recorded as a racist incident.

2. TACKLING RACIST INCIDENTS

A racist incident may be a hate incident or hate crime

A racist incident is a hate incident if the victim or anyone else thinks it was carried out because of hostility, discrimination or prejudice based on race. In the case of hate incidents, the designated member of staff / Equalities Co-ordinator should seek advice from the Police School Link Officer.

If the incident is a criminal offence and the offender targeted the victim because of their prejudice or hostility based on race, this is a hate crime. All possible hate crimes should be reported to Police Scotland through the School Link Officer.

Supporting a child or young person who has experienced racism

This guidance applies in the following situations:

- a child/young person tells you about a racist incident towards them
- a child/young person (third party) tells you that they have seen or heard about a racist incident involving another child/young person
- you witness a racist incident involving a child/young person
- a parent tells the school about a racist incident that their child has experienced or has witnessed.

Be aware that a child / young person from a black and minority ethnic background may react strongly to racism because they experience this not just as a personal attack but as an attack on their family, community and culture. Furthermore, the immediate incident may be only the latest in a series of other racist incidents (micro-aggressions or more significant incidents) which the child or young person has experienced. The child/young person's strong reaction may itself be unacceptable. In such cases, it is important to treat both the racist incident and the young child/young person's reaction appropriately and proportionately.

At all times child protection / risk management procedures should be followed if necessary.

Show belief and treat the concern seriously

Children and young people often say they don't feel believed or taken seriously; they can be deeply affected at their core by what they perceive as racism against them, and even if it doesn't appear to you to be a racist event, it is important that you show belief and investigate thoroughly before making a judgment.

Discuss what the child/young person would like to happen - follow this as far as possible

Children and young people often feel teachers want to help but don't always handle it well and may make it worse; they may under-react or over-react. Teachers, especially those with less experience of responding to racist incidents, may not feel confident about what to do. So, ask the child/young person what they would like to happen and as far as possible follow their feelings.

They may want nothing to happen at this point – it may be enough to tell you, and you have to take a decision on how serious the issue is, and whether you can hold on to that information and support the child for a bit, to help them resolve it in their own way. Take the views of the child or young person seriously, with awareness that racism cannot go unchallenged even when they may be reluctant to seek a solution or want to avoid a direct approach.

In all cases, tell them what you plan to do and who you need to tell, so they can feel in control as far as possible.

Parents as Partners

Taking into consideration the views of the child or young person, inform their parents/carers of the incident, how their child is being supported and how the incident is being dealt with.

Give as much feedback as possible on actions and outcomes

Children and young people often say they report racism and they never hear about it again. This can happen even where the incident has been very effectively handled in terms of the child or young person who displayed racist behaviour, because of the need to recognise their rights and privacy too. There needs to be a balance between the privacy of the child/young person who displayed racist behaviour (in terms of the consequences and support for them), and the rights of the child/young person who experienced the racist behaviour to feel that justice has been done.

Rights Respecting and Restorative approaches

Two of our core practices in developing positive relationships are: Rights Respecting and Restorative. Our aim is to address the root causes of the racist behaviour and for the behaviour to stop. Where appropriate, we will use restorative approaches, balancing this with respecting children and young people's rights. We recognise that for the child / young person who experienced racism, a purely restorative approach may not feel enough for justice to have been done and their rights to have been respected.

Revisit to check on a sustained basis

Children and young people often say that the teacher dealt with it and it stopped for a time, and they didn't want to keep going back because they would be seen as a 'wimp' or a 'moan'. So, it's important that you take the initiative on a sustained basis, to check that the child or young person is not having problems again. Peer mentoring or buddy systems may be supportive.

Follow up

Ensure that key staff are aware on a need-to-know basis and can help you monitor for future events / occurrences.

Working with a child or young person who has displayed racist behaviour

A child or young person who is displaying racist behaviour may not be doing this consciously. Nevertheless, all racist behaviour and language must be challenged, with support to change. Pupils who present racist behaviour will be treated fairly and consistently using actions that are proportionate and appropriate to the age and stage of the child and to the incident. Our aim is to address the root causes of the behaviour and for the behaviour to stop (see examples of actions in main procedure above).

An approach which relies only on consequences can be counter-productive; it does not address the underlying cause and can generate resentment and reinforce racist feelings or behaviour. Similarly, a 'zero tolerance' approach ('we don't allow racism here - no further discussion') may merely suppress the behaviours or beliefs and allow them to grow stronger, below the surface.

Fully addressing racist attitudes and behaviour (rather than a simple 'consequences' or 'zero tolerance' approach) is more time-consuming in the short-term but is essential to eliminate racism. There is clear evidence that school policy and practice in dealing effectively with racist incidents is an essential part of creating an anti-racist school culture.

Some suggested approaches:

- avoid confrontation
- repeat the comment or define the action to ensure you have understood it correctly – ask the child / young person concerned to repeat themselves and/or explain what they mean
- if there is any uncertainty, point out that the event could be construed as racist, and ensure they understand this
- ask the child / young person why they said or did this
- challenge the ideas – not the person
- acknowledge any sense of grievance or hurt which has led to the racist comment/action, without accepting that it justifies the comment/action; ensure that any valid sense of grievance or hurt is addressed too as this is vital to avoid increasing resentment
- relate the issue to the child or young person's age/gender/class/disability and try to find some parallels, to gain empathy
- expose irrational or contradictory arguments by sharing the relevant research/statistics/counter-arguments/historical context/legislation
- seek a positive way forward which enables the person to retain self-esteem (while ensuring that the needs of the child/young person who experienced racism are fully met)
- where appropriate, encourage witnesses/others involved to suggest an appropriate response/way forward
- revisit the situation as often as necessary with both parties to ensure the resolution is effective and there has been no repetition or negative ramifications
- where appropriate and helpful, inform parents to try and gain their support in ensuring that the racist behaviour does not happen again.

Recording: at all stages, all actions and outcomes should be fully recorded, monitored and updated on the SEEMiS Bullying and Equalities module.

Monitoring: the number of racist incidents reported and recorded should be monitored on a regular basis, along with other types of incident recorded on the SEEMiS Bullying and Equalities module.

3. CREATING AN ANTI-RACIST CULTURE

Micro-aggressions are the most common way racist and other forms of discrimination are expressed on a daily basis, both online and face-to-face, so tackling them is very important. Racial micro-aggressions are everyday verbal, nonverbal and environmental slights, snubs or insults, whether intentional or unintentional, which communicate hostile, derogatory or negative messages to people based solely on their race. In many cases, these hidden messages can invalidate the person, demean them on a personal or group level. Micro-aggressions communicate that they are lesser human beings, suggest they do not belong with the majority group, threaten and intimidate, or relegate them to inferior status or treatment. The individual and cumulative impact of racial micro-aggressions can have significant impact on health and wellbeing.

Examples of micro-aggressions include:

- a staff member continually mispronounces a pupil's name or suggests using an anglicised version because that will be 'easier' for them to pronounce (hidden message: *you are an outsider and don't belong here- to belong you need to fit in with 'us'*)
- an Asian Scottish pupil, born and raised in Scotland, is complimented for speaking 'good English' (hidden message: *you are not a true Scot; you are a perpetual foreigner in your own country*)

Managing pupil views – an anti-racist stance

It is the responsibility of all staff to create and maintain an open, safe and supportive learning environment where children and young people can explore and develop their understanding of sensitive topics related to 'race' at an age-appropriate level. At times, children and young people may express views which may be controversial or distressing to others. If these views remain unchallenged by the group or by the adults, the silence effectively condones the views. This may leave others feeling unwelcome, unsafe, or marginalised and doesn't give children and young people the opportunity to really consider the issues and examine their personal, or learned, assumptions. Censorship is counter-productive. However, it is important that children and young people develop the skills to put their point across in a clear and respectful manner and that staff are able to manage the learning situation to support all to feel safe and learn.

Responding to micro-aggressions using the ACTION framework

<https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/effective-classroom-management/responding-to-microaggressions-in-the-classroom/>

Whether we are the observer, the target, or the unintentional 'perpetrator' of micro-aggressions, we may not know how to respond to them in the moment. Common reactions are to feel 'frozen' (if the observer) or defensive (if the target or 'perpetrator'). How we respond can have an immediate effect on students and the learning environment. Certain practices can increase the likelihood of maintaining a supportive climate. One of these is the **ACTION** communication framework (Cheung, Ganote and Souza, 2016).

ACTION Framework

Ask clarifying questions to assist with understanding intentions. *"I want to make sure that I understand what you were saying. Were you saying that...?"*

Come from curiosity not judgement.

- Listen actively and openly to their response.
- If they disagree with your paraphrase and clarify a different meaning, you could end the conversation. If you suspect they are trying to "cover their tracks," you may consider making a statement about the initial comment to encourage learning. *"I'm glad to hear I misunderstood you, because, as you know, such comments can be..."*
- If they agree with your paraphrase, explore their intent behind making the comment. *"Can you tell me what you were hoping to communicate with that comment?" "Can you please help me understand what you meant by that?"*

Tell what you observed as problematic in a factual manner. *"I noticed that . . ."*

Impact exploration: ask for, and/or state, the potential impact of such a statement or action on others.

"What do you think people think when they hear that type of comment?"

"As you know, everything speaks. What message do you think such a comment sends?"

"What impact do you think that comment could have on ..."

Own your own thoughts and feelings around the impact.

"When I hear your comment, I think/feel..." "Many people might take that comment to mean..."

"In my experience, that comment can perpetuate negative stereotypes and assumptions about... I would like to think that is not your intent."

Next steps: Request appropriate action be taken.

"Our class is a learning community, and such comments make it difficult for us to focus on learning because people feel offended. So I am going to ask you to refrain from stating your thoughts in that manner in the future. Can you do that please?"

"I encourage you to revisit your view on X as we discuss these issues more in class."

"I'd appreciate it if you'd consider using a different term because it is inconsistent with our course agreement regarding X..."

With practice, the ACTION framework can become a tool to organize your thoughts and unpack the micro-aggression in a way that addresses the situation and cools down tension. In this way, we can engage thoughtfully and purposively in strategies that maintain a positive climate that is conducive to learning and at the same time, model the skills needed to respond to micro-aggressions in any context.

REFERENCE

Harassment and Victimisation (Equality Act 2010)

Harassment related to a protected characteristic is unwanted behaviour which is related to a relevant protected characteristic and which has the purpose or effect of:

- Violating a child, young person's dignity or
- Creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for the child or young person

The word 'unwanted' means 'unwelcome' or 'uninvited'. It is not necessary for the child or young person to say that they object to the behaviour for it to be unwanted.

Victimisation is defined in the Equality Act as:

Treating someone badly because they have done a 'protected act' (or because you believe that a person has done or is going to do a protected act).

A protected act is:

- Making a claim or complaint of discrimination (under the Equality Act)
- Helping someone else to make a claim by giving evidence or information
- Making an allegation that you or someone else has breached the Act.
- Doing anything else in connection with the Act.

Direct and Indirect Discrimination (Equality Act 2010)

Direct Discrimination is when you are treated worse than another person or other people because:

- you have a protected characteristic
- someone thinks you have that protected characteristic (known as discrimination by perception)
- you are connected to someone with that protected characteristic (known as discrimination by association)

Indirect discrimination happens when there is a policy that applies in the same way for everybody but disadvantages a group of people who share a protected characteristic, and you are disadvantaged as part of this group. If this happens, the person or organisation applying the policy must show that there is a good reason for it.

A 'policy' can include a practice, a rule or an arrangement. It makes no difference whether anyone intended the policy to disadvantage you or not.