

Email message

Subject Information Request

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Message Brent Council - INFORMATION REQUEST

Our Reference: 562704

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Dear Mr. Walker,

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is enclosed. You asked:

1) What evidence is there that schools' equal opportunity policies are effective in combating racism?

and

3) Can you provide me with any evidence that the measures listed above have been effective (if this has not already been done)?

' Race equality policies are in place and monitored by the School Improvement Services through an audit process. All schools are audited on a rolling programme.

' The local authority monitors incidents of racism and data from schools shows that there are few on an annual basis. Schools have a duty to monitor incidents of racism.

' Ofsted inspections on Brent schools report favourably on the harmonious nature of Brent schools. Since the community cohesion duty has been placed on schools (2008), many Brent schools have received 'outstanding' or 'good' in this area.

2) What are schools in your area doing to promote racial equality and promote community cohesion? Examples of measures deemed to be good practice and recognised as being successful would be

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useful.

¿ Brent is one of the most culturally diverse boroughs in the UK. As a result, the promotion of race equality and community cohesion is of great importance to our schools.

¿ All Brent schools have race equality policies in place.

¿ Through the curriculum, schools promote community cohesion. For example, festivals from different cultures are celebrated, the history of different cultures is incorporated (Black History month) and poetry from a variety of cultures is explored.

¿ The Religious Education syllabus in Brent helps to promote community cohesion through pupils learning about different faiths and religions.

¿ Through Citizenship, schools promote racial equality, tolerance and greater understanding of peers from different faiths and backgrounds. In many schools the ¿pupil voice¿ facilitates pupils in leading the way to combat racism and promote community cohesion.

¿ Many schools hold specific events to promote race equality and community cohesion. For example, international evenings are held in many schools. These give pupils and parents a greater understanding of different cultures.

¿ Events are held which bring pupils from different schools and cultures together to learn about each others¿ backgrounds. For example, an event was held recently in which pupils from five secondary schools had a learning day together; the pupils were from very different cultural backgrounds.

¿ The local authority holds conferences which schools attend. For example, conferences on tackling racist bullying, to promote community cohesion and to promote more understanding of specific communities, such as the Somali community.

4) Are further measures required to either maintain trust in the teaching profession or protect children and young people?

We do not have a recorded position on this question.

Please note that the information provided may be subject to copyright and you may require further permission from the Council to re-use it. If you require further guidance please write to the IT Standards Manager (contact details below).

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If you are dissatisfied with the response or how the Council has handled your request you can complain to the Council by writing to the following address: IT Standards Manager at Brent Council, Floor 5, 349-357 High Road, Wembley HA9 6BZ, telephone 020 8937 1402, e-mail foi@brent.gov.uk. It is the Council's policy to ensure that, where practicable, your complaint is dealt with by someone who was not involved in the original decision.

You also have a right of appeal about our decision to the Information Commissioner, however, the Information Commissioner will not normally consider an appeal until you have exhausted your rights of redress and complaint to the Council. The Information Commissioner can be contacted as follows:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF; Telephone: 01625 545 700, www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

As part of our commitment to improve our service to our customers we would welcome any feedback on the way that we have dealt with your request.

Yours sincerely

Stephen F Williams,
DPA & FOI Consultant
stephenf.williams@brent.gov.uk

About this form

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