

Supporting students (and staff) to be anti-racist

Whilst recent shocking events in America will have concerned many of us, it is important to consider what we can do to support the social movement **safely** but also support those affected to utilise their voices in a constructive and meaningful way.

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Actions for schools

- Consider issuing advice (see below) to students and their families before the [protest due on Sunday the 7th June 2020](#).
- Remind staff and students of your setting's values/ethos.
- Remind staff who they can speak to for support.
- Remind students who they can speak to for support (within your setting)
- Creating a safe space for students to talk about worries about the death of George Floyd, Racism and protests. This can either be in school or virtually. This could be in the form of a virtual assembly, a learning event or integrated into existing lessons and platforms.
- Create a safe space for your BAME students, staff and parents to discuss issues which are important to them. This will also help you with your Equality Impact Assessments under your Public Sector Equality Duty.

Information to cascade to students and families - Five points to consider!

(adjust to reflect your phase demographics).

It is encouraged that you share this with students and families. There are many things that you can do to support learning, reflection and ultimately social change. A protest can raise awareness, but there are things that people can do to sustain change.

Five points to consider!

1. **Do not risk your health.** You have a duty to protect yourself and others. Whilst the death of George Floyd is shocking, racism is not new. Have a think about what you can do to create some sustained change.
2. **Strengthen your connections and educate**

Reconnect with family and friends to protest virtually on social media platforms: Many of you may have taken part in [#Blackouttuesday](#). This offered those participating to take a break from posting on social media platforms and use that time to educate themselves on the issue of racism and what you can do to make changes in your networks.

Read books /Watch films on the topic of becoming antiracist. There are many lists online that have been published on this topic you just need to use a search engine! You will need to have a look around to find the right one for you. It would be positive if you were going to invest in something that you chose a Black or Ethnic Minority artist or author to support.

3. **Managing feelings and self care**

There are a lot of online articles and videos which have recently been published in response to the protests. Reading these can be distressing and upsetting. It is natural it is important to recognise that racism is distressing and upsetting. But look after yourselves.

If you cannot speak to loved ones, there are other platforms you can use.

[Childline](#) - Telephone number 0800 1111

[Samaritans](#)- Telephone number 116 123

For local resources please see [Bristol Mind](#) - https://bristolmind.org.uk/support_type/local-helplines/

4. **Use your voices.**

- **Write a letter to your MP.** [Click here for a guide around contacting your MP](#) share your worries and concerns and communicate what change you want to see.

- **Sign petitions** - <https://petition.parliament.uk/> if a petition gets 10,000 signatures the government will respond.

5. **If you do want to attend a protest do so peacefully and safely:**

- Bring a bag/Backpack to bring supplies.
- Bring water and snacks
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Suitable clothing – wear some good walking shoes!
- Hand sanitizer.
- A fully charged phone and a power bank.

Supt Andy Bennett from Avon and Somerset Constabulary said: “It’s important to stand up for fairness, equality and inclusion and we fully recognise the reasons why people will want to gather at College Green on Sunday. “While mass gatherings are technically a breach of Government regulations we will take a pragmatic approach to policing the event and we’re liaising with the organisers and the local authority to ensure appropriate plans are in place. “We all have a personal responsibility to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and encourage anyone thinking of attending to take into consideration theirs and others’ safety.”

For young people who decide to attend the event and not show their support in alternative ways, we would ask that they remember to maintain distancing and bring suitable PPE to minimise the risk of any spread of the virus. Anyone attending a demonstration or march should make sure they wear clothing that is appropriate for the weather and that they have access to water. On this occasion access to toilets and other necessary facilities will be very limited so that should also be considered when deciding whether to attend.

Useful resources for children and parents

- Racism - [CBBC Newsround](#)
- I Don't Like Racism – This girl explains how she is sad when she sees people being racist. [CBBC](#)
- Racism and racial bullying - [ChildLine](#)
- How to talk to your children about Race and Racism - [BBC](#)
- The Childrens Community School – [Social Justice Resources](#)

Articles that may be useful for parents and staff

- **How to talk to kids about racism, protests and injustice-** [Today.com](#)
It's OK not to have all the answers. It's important to have the conversation.
- **Books that may help you explain Racism and protest to Your Kids –** [New York Times](#)
The conversation about race needs to start early and keep happening.
- **Talking to kids about race –** [National Geographic resource](#)
Recent protests are sparking questions from children. Not shying away from those conversations is the first step in raising an anti-racist child.

Anti-racism charities in the UK

Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI)

Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI) provides support for people who have suffered hate crime, including attacks that were racist, homophobic, transphobic and/or sexist. The charity employs trained caseworkers in order to help victims with the mental trauma they are experiencing, to assist with legal proceedings and to refer them to other services that may be of use. [Click here](#)

Kick It Out

Kick It Out is an organisation in England that uses football in order to promote equality and inclusivity.

“Kick It Out is at the heart of the fight against discrimination for everyone who plays, watches or works in football,” it states.

Beginning as an independent charity called Let’s Kick Racism Out of Football in 1993, Kick It Out was officially established four years later. [Click here](#)

Stop Hate UK

Originating in 1995 following the murder of Stephen Lawrence, Stop Hate UK is an organisation committed to supporting people affected by all forms of hate crime across the UK.

“Stop Hate UK works alongside local strategic partnerships to tackle hate crime and discrimination, encourage reporting and support the individuals and communities it affects,” the charity says.

“Our helplines enable people to access independent support and information, 24 hours a day, every day of the year.” [Click here](#)

Runnymede

Runnymede is a registered charity and think tank that aims to “challenge race inequality in Britain through research, network building, leading debate and policy engagement”.

The organisation, which is funded entirely by donations, states: “Our authoritative research-based interventions in social policy and practice, and our public engagement with decision makers, will assist policy-makers, practitioners, and citizens, to reduce the risk of our society being blighted by racism and discrimination to the detriment of us all.” [Click here](#)

Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust

The Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust was named after Stephen Lawrence, a black teenager who was murdered at the age of 18 in a racist attack in southeast London.

The trust is an educational charity, which was created “to tackle inequality in all forms” and is committed to “transforming the life chances of young people and improving the world in which they live”. [Click here](#)

Show Racism the Red Card

Show Racism the Red Card is an anti-racism educational charity that uses workshops and training sessions, among other resources, to educate on and combat racism.

Founded almost 25 years ago, the organisation uses high-profile football players to publicise its message. [Click here](#)