

**Report to:** Children's Services Panel Cabinet

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007 31<sup>st</sup> May 2007

**Subject:** Reporting of racist incidents involving children and young people in schools and pilot recording of other hate-incidents and bullying

**Report of:** Director of Children and Young Peoples Services

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**Purpose/summary:** To inform Members of

- i. the reports received from schools on racist incidents involving children and young people during the Spring Term 2007, and
- ii. the change from paper-based to web-based reporting

**Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended:** N/A

**Recommendation/decision:** That Members are asked to:

- i. note the racist incidents involving children and young people that occurred during the Spring Term 2007;
- ii. note the adoption of the Sentinel online system; and
- iii. reaffirm their commitment to support schools in their work in dealing with racist incidents and all other hate-incidents and bullying involving pupils.

**Key Decision:** (This report does not involve a key decision)

**Implications:**

Financial:	There are no direct financial implications
Staffing:	There are no direct staffing implications
Policy:	Comprehensive Equality Policy; Equality Scheme
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	n/a
Wards affected:	All
Special Interest Members – Which have been consulted	Councillor B Wilson



**For Cabinet reports only:**

Categorisation of the report:	
Discussion leading to a decision	
Monitoring	<b>X</b>
Sharing for corporate understanding	

Discussion	
Decision	
Information	

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**Tracking/Process:**

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
24.05.07		31.05.07	

Proper Officer



Date

May 2007

## **1.0 Background**

Schools are expected to make returns on all racist incidents involving children and young people. Schools that do report racist incidents most rigorously may be those that best acknowledge the importance of addressing racist behaviour. However significant work remains to be done to increase awareness for recording purposes.

## **2.0 Change from fax-based to web-based reporting**

The present procedure came into operation on 1st September 2004. This involves sending a fax copy of a paper record form (without pupils' names) to the Community Safety Team, who then transfer the data to a computer.

Following a previous report to Panel and Cabinet, an alternative web-based system called Sentinel has been successfully piloted. The school procedure has now been slightly amended to replace the fax system with Sentinel from September 2007. This will be for all racist incidents involving children and young people in schools, with the further possibility of recording bullying and hate-incidents other than racist incidents.

This report and the subsequent report for the Summer Term 2007 will therefore contain aggregated data from Sentinel and faxes. The report for the Autumn Term 2007 will be based on Sentinel data only.

## **3.0 Support to schools**

Support continues for governing bodies to combine their equality policies under a single Equality Scheme. Action plans to promote race equality, disability equality and gender equality fit under this overarching statement. These duties on schools arise from the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and the Equality Act 2006. An intensive programme of training has recently been completed and more detailed support is now being provided to schools on a cluster basis.

More schools in the Leigh township are becoming more involved in the Leigh Neighbours Project, a multi-agency initiative of the Leigh Township Forum to promote community cohesion. The headline indicator for community cohesion is the percentage of people who think people of different ethnic backgrounds get on well together there. Particularly encouraging examples of good practice are emerging from certain Leigh schools.

#### 4.0 Racist incidents involving pupils reported for the Spring Term 2007

	Secondary	Primary	All
Atherton	4	3	7
Bryn & Ashton	0	0	0
Golborne & Lowton	5	1	6
Hindley & Abram	2	3	5
Leigh	5	5	10
Orrell, Billinge & Winstanley	2	0	2
Standish, Aspull & Shevington	5	1	6
Tyldesley & Astley	3	0	3
Wigan North	1	5	6
Wigan South	8	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>53</b>

#### 5.0 Commentary on the figures

As always, extreme caution is needed in interpreting these figures. The on-line reporting method being adopted (see 2.0 above) should provide a more realistic picture.

#### 6.0 Recommendations / conclusion

That Members are asked to:

- i. note the racist incidents involving children and young people in schools that occurred during the Spring Term 2007;
- ii. note the adoption of the Sentinel online system; and
- iii. reaffirm their commitment to support schools in their work in dealing with racist incidents and all other hate-incidents and bullying involving pupils.

## APPENDIX

### Comparative figures from previous four terms

Racist incidents involving pupils reported for the Autumn Term 2005

	Secondary	Primary	All
Ashton in Makerfield & Bryn	0	7	7
Atherton	6	2	8
Golborne & Lowton	0	0	0
Hindley, Abram, Platt Bridge & Bickershaw	1	14	15
Leigh	11	12	23
Orrell, Billinge & Winstanley	0	2	2
Shevington, Standish & Aspull	0	2	2
Tyldesley & Astley	0	2	2
Wigan North	2	0	2
Wigan South	0	3	3
Total	20	44	64

Racist incidents involving pupils reported for the Spring Term 2006

	Secondary	Primary	All
Ashton in Makerfield & Bryn	0	3	3
Atherton	8	0	8
Golborne & Lowton	0	5	5
Hindley, Abram, Platt Bridge & Bickershaw	0	6	6
Leigh	3	11	14
Orrell, Billinge & Winstanley	3	2	5
Shevington, Standish & Aspull	0	5	5
Tyldesley & Astley	2	0	2
Wigan North	2	8	10
Wigan South	0	3	3
Total	18	43	61

Racist incidents involving pupils reported for the Summer Term 2006

	Secondary	Primary	Total
Ashton in Makerfield & Bryn	0	3	3
Atherton	2	2	4
Golborne & Lowton	0	0	0
Hindley, Abram, Platt Bridge & Bickershaw	6	2	8
Leigh	3	6	9
Orrell, Billinge & Winstanley	0	3	3
Shevington, Standish & Aspull	0	3	3
Tyldesley & Astley	0	2	2
Wigan North	4	3	7
Wigan South	0	5	5
Total	15	29	44

## Racist incidents involving pupils reported for the Autumn Term 2006

	Secondary	Primary	Total
Ashton in Makerfield & Bryn	1	2	3
Atherton	2	11	13
Golborne & Lowton	2	1	3
Hindley, Abram, Platt Bridge & Bickershaw	0	3	3
Leigh	4	5	9
Orrell, Billinge & Winstanley	1	0	1
Shevington, Standish & Aspull	4	0	4
Tyldesley & Astley	3	7	10
Wigan North	2	6	8
Wigan South	0	6	6
Total	19	41	60