



Lewisham Learning

Dear parents and carers

Tackling race inequality in Lewisham schools

January 2022 update

We wrote to you at the end of the summer term last year to let you know about the work happening in all Lewisham schools and colleges, as part of the **Council-wide commitment to tackle race inequalities** and ensure all of our young people get the best education they can. We wanted to update you on this work, and what has been happening in our schools over the last six months.

Our first piece of work was to ensure that every school and college in Lewisham was on board, and to do this we asked them to sign a pledge.

[Read the pledge and learn more about what it means on the Lewisham Council website.](#)

We are very proud to be able to tell you that every Lewisham school and college is on board, and 100 % of our schools and colleges have signed the pledge.

Turning our pledge into action

We have been working behind the scenes at the Council and within our schools and colleges to turn the pledge into action. We have been doing this through four main work streams:

Leadership

In July, over 100 school leaders and community members from across the borough attended an online conference on tackling race inequality in education.

We have delivered **racial literacy** training for our school governors across the borough, and are in the process of creating a governor toolkit for our schools and colleges to use. If you are a school governor and interested in getting involved, email n.maharasingam@rathfern.lewisham.sch.uk





Curriculum

The conference in July saw leading academics share their thoughts on teaching diversity in the classroom and lessons, including [Professor Heidi Mirza](#). We also invited teachers and education leaders from schools and colleges in Lewisham to share how teaching and learning in classrooms is changing to make sure it reflects our communities here in Lewisham and the modern world we live in.

Relationships

A ground breaking new partnership aimed at supporting Black Caribbean and dual heritage (Black Caribbean/White) pupils in Lewisham launched in September. [Read more about the Lewisham Young Leaders Academy.](#)

Community

Community leaders and parents were a central part of the July conference.

Sydenham School, Rathfern Primary, Haberdashers' Knights Academy and Grinling Gibbons are working with Citizens UK in January to launch Community Conversations About Race. We will be able to share more information about this in the next newsletter, but if you are a parent in one of these schools and interested in finding out more, please email the Headteacher directly.

We know that this is still just the beginning of this work, and it is not something that will improve all outcomes immediately. We want to assure you that we are committed to this in the long term.

It's important to remember that tackling race inequality in educational settings will help all pupils of all backgrounds, regardless of their heritage, to thrive.

We hope you have found this information useful and will continue to keep you updated. If you have any specific questions about this work, please contact raceequality@lewisham.gov.uk rather than your child's school.

Yours faithfully,

Brenda Dacres
Deputy Mayor,
Lewisham Council

Councillor Chris Barnham
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Lewisham Council

Pinaki Ghoshal
Executive Director for Children and Young People
Lewisham Council

Angela Scattergood
Director of Education,
Lewisham Council

