

# Penpol School

2 St George's Road, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 4AH



Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## Talking about Race and Identity – an Update

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you all for your support so far in response to last Friday's newsletter. We shared that we are taking concerted steps as a school to open up the conversation about race and identity in order that our pupils are able to talk about these themes respectfully, confidently and safely.

We are hugely proud of our pupils and the way in which our values of respect and friendship are demonstrated across the school. However, Cornwall's unique context and the fact that racially offensive language has occurred within our school and exists within the broader community demonstrate how critical it is that we all take a proactive, **anti-racist approach**.

For many people, it can feel more appropriate to say 'we don't see colour'. Indeed, this often comes from good intentions. However, this approach is problematic; although race itself is a social construct, racism is sadly very real, particularly to those who experience it. Therefore, talking about race and identity with our children is the only way in which we can build a fairer society for all.

**Please do support us with these conversations at home.** Speaking with children at school, there is a real appetite to explore these themes and the videos provided are a great place to start. Please follow the links below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52965984>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52986346>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52986344>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/children-race-racism-racial-bullying/>

In addition to educating and empowering, it is important that we provide our children with absolute clarity of expectation around their behaviours. Therefore, we will shortly be reviewing our Behaviour for Learning policy to ensure that it accurately recognises the harm that racially offensive comments cause. We will also be welcoming local police officer Adrian Hart to an assembly for our Year 5 and 6 pupils next Tuesday to explore how the law supports an anti-racist society.

As ever, our actions at school are most effective when we work closely with you. To support this important work, we are establishing a **Penpol Race Equality Taskforce**, to include pupils, parents, guardians, staff, governors and other community members. It will be particularly important that this group benefits from representatives who may have experienced racism themselves. If you are interested in getting involved, please do drop me a line on [head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk).

Many thanks for your continued support.

Best wishes,

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"Penpol pupils are **curious, creative** and **courageous** learners. Our school community believes in **authenticity** as the foundations of **deep-rooted** learning. Through our **rich** and **relevant** curriculum, we nurture **community-minded, forward-facing** international citizens of the future."