

# **ANTI-RACISM PLEDGE 2020**

**For Schools and Colleges in Leicester and Leicestershire**

In the wake of the recent Black Lives Matter protests, we as educators and people with an interest in the education and welfare of young people in Leicester, feel a sense of responsibility to take leadership at this moment to challenge racism and improve the curriculum.

We understand this is a highly challenging time for schools, but feel it is crucial they acknowledge that students, parents, governors and staff are affected by two pandemics: Covid-19 and racism.

The five key actions below are a starting point, showing a school's willingness to engage in dialogue and ensure all their students can be proud of attending an Anti-Racist School.

## **WE CALL ON ALL SCHOOLS TO:**

- 1. Release a statement in support of the goals and focus of the BLM movement.**
- 2. Display clear information on how to report racist incidents and commit to releasing data in relation to this.**
- 3. Carry out Equality Impact Assessments on all school policies and practices and review and rewrite accordingly.**
- 4. Commit to include the teaching of racism, migration, Empire and colonialism.**
- 5. Provide training for all staff & Governors focusing on "racial literacy".**  
(In other words, an understanding of racism as institutional & structural and the history behind it, so enabling them to see & respond to, the ways the education system can and does reproduce racism and racial inequalities).

**All committing schools will be invited to contribute to the development of next steps and receive support and resources as required.**

**All staff and Governors should be made aware of why these actions are necessary and Black students, wherever possible, should be given priority to express their opinions.**

As educators and school leaders, we care deeply about all our young people and want them to feel safe and welcome in school. This is a significant global moment and we want to take the lead and carry the momentum into the new academic year.

## **FOUNDER SIGNATORIES**

**Claudia Webbe MP Leicester East**

**The Stephen Lawrence Research Centre, De Montfort University**

**Prof Surinder Sharma Co-Director at DICE University of Leicester**

**Prof John Williams Co-Director at DICE University of Leicester**

**The Race Equality Centre**

**Dr Iris Lightfoote - CEO at TREC**

**Black Bloom (BLM Leicester)**

**Lara Husain - Co-Founder of Leicester Against Racism**

**Stefan Turner - Co-founder of Leicester against Racism**

**Linda Bradshaw - Lead Practitioner in RS and T&L at The City of Leicester College**

**Natasha Boyce - Associate Senior Leader & Head of RS at LiFE MAT**

**Julie Walters-Nisbett - Vice- President Leicester City NEU, Science Teacher at The City of Leicester College.**

**Yasmin Musse – Teacher of English at Judgemeanow Community college**

**Cllr Dr Deborah Sangster**

**Cllr Vijay Singh Riyait**

**Monica Hingorani - Parent & Educator**

**Luke Whitney - Head Teacher of Mayflower Primary School**

**Denham Kite – Principal at Krishna Avanti Primary School**

**Ruth Sinhal – Educational Consultant at Leicester Schools Linking Project**

## **AGREEMENT**

If you are in agreement, please complete the following form and return via email to [ruthsinhal@gmail.com](mailto:ruthsinhal@gmail.com)

We look forward to working with you.

<b>Name of School</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Head Teacher's Name</b>	
<b>Contact Email</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	

<b>If you would like to receive support in any specific areas, please let us know.</b>

Please return to [ruthsinhal@gmail.com](mailto:ruthsinhal@gmail.com)

**Template statement– feel free to adapt it if required or create your own.**

At (school name) we operate a zero-tolerance approach towards all discrimination. However, in the wake of the recent BLM protests, we believe it is imperative to address the issue of racism and offer our unambiguous support to all our students, staff, governors, parents, carers and guardians who are Black or a Person of Colour (POC). We wish to reassure you that all matters of racial discrimination, whether it presents itself overtly or covertly, will be handled with the upmost care and importance. We are very aware that education is a powerful vehicle of change and as such, we pledge to teach about racism, develop our anti-racist policies and practices and engage in dialogue to ensure that each of us can feel proud to belong to an Anti-Racist School.