

The other things I would like to highlight about my petition team is my survey, as I wasn't given the chance to explain it.

The survey was created by myself and Naya Anajuba (a psychology graduate who is registered with the British Psychological Society). A link to the survey can be found [here](#)

[Experience of learning about racism and racial diversity in school \(for those aged 16+\)](#)

In short, the survey is for those aged 16+, who completed secondary school in the UK. These two qualifiers were selected as those aged 16+ would have completed their mandatory education, and we did not believe people who had a sufficient enough memory of their primary school education, so questions concentrated on secondary school.

Attached you will find the responses to the survey that has numerous screenshots of the responses in tables, graphs, typed out making it an easier read.

Our main findings were:

- Respondents did not believe they had an anti-racist curriculum
- Respondents did not believe they left primary or secondary school with a sufficient enough understanding of racism
- A majority of respondents do not believe they have a sufficient enough understanding of the present-day inequalities in the UK.
- A majority of respondents believe they have experienced differential treatment due to their race
- A majority of respondents witnessed racism taking place in schools
- A majority of respondents chose not to report racism they had witnessed
- The reasons why respondents chose not to report racism varied though the common themes included:

1. Racism being normalised "banter" "jokes" "that's life"
2. Not knowing how / where to report racism
3. Racism being deemed as unimportant / not taken seriously
4. Insufficient consequences for perpetrators
5. Fear: fear of not being believed, fear of being viewed as racially sensitive, fear of backlash on them either by students or staff

I encourage ministers to read the survey themselves but especially the responses to why students chose to / chose not to report racism as the responses are striking.

I would also encourage ministers to read the ages in which respondents first felt like they experienced differential treatment due to their race - as a common argument against teaching about racism is that children are too young to learn about racism, but my survey proves this isn't the case as they already experiencing it.

I would just like to add that my petition is quite different from the other petitions as it asks the government to teach about the present-day inequalities taking place and not the past ones. There is currently no place in the curriculum where there is a significant dedication to the topics of racism, racial diversity and anti-racism. As well as racism being prejudice, discrimination, antagonism based on membership to a particular racial/ethnic group, it is also the failure to correct already racist behaviour. By failing to acknowledge the present-day inequalities and hardships minorities go through we are failing. The failure to teach anti-racism not only reflects on minority pupils but also on white pupils. The government responded to my petition and the other petitions I presented with by saying "there is space" here "there is an option" there.

The government directed me to the subjects of History, PSHE, Citizenship and RSE. Respectfully, my petition talks about present-day inequalities and hardships, so it has no place in the history curriculum. PSHE is not a core subject, furthermore, there is no set curriculum and teachers have the freedom to teach what they believe is of relevance to their students. Although racism is an issue that affects everyone in society, it is typically falsely presented as minority issue and because according to the last UK census the country is made up only 13% minorities, racism is unlikely to be selected as a prominent issue in a majority of schools as they will favour topics like drugs and alcohol. Citizenship

curriculum fails to read that schools should tackle the harsher realities of respect and tolerance such as stereotyping, labelling, prejudice and discrimination. It fails to read that students should explicitly be taught about racism and anti-racism. RSE has whole modules dedicated to LGBTQI+, SEND and even governance but not once dedicated to race as if race doesn't have a large part to do with our interactions and relationships with one another. As I said in the evidence session, the equality act grants protections to individuals based on sex, sexuality, gender, religion, age, disability, pregnancy, marriage and race. We are taught about all of these things specifically and significantly in schools except for the racial element.

Regardless of any of these counter-arguments why should the teaching of minority history and politics be an option when minority slavery and colonialism was not an option, the oppression of brown and black people was not an option. I correct myself it is an option. And politicians keep choosing it by failing to diversify and decolonise the curriculum by teaching the realities of the minority experience.

I would just like to leave you with this note,

We need all of our children to be taught about the realities of present-day racism to prepare and protect them and invite them to fight against from the racism they undoubtedly will (or as my survey demonstrates will continue to) witness and/or experience.

Many thanks again for inviting me to participate in these discussions,
Cynthia

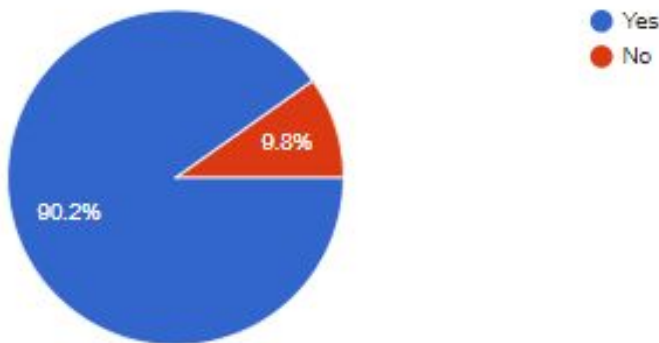
November 2020



Education in the UK

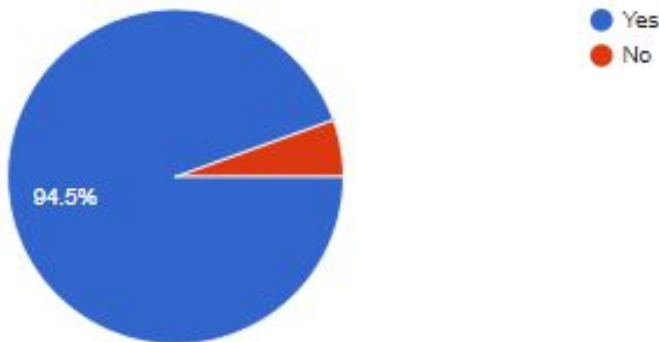
Did you attend primary school in the UK?

163 responses



Did you attend secondary school in the UK?

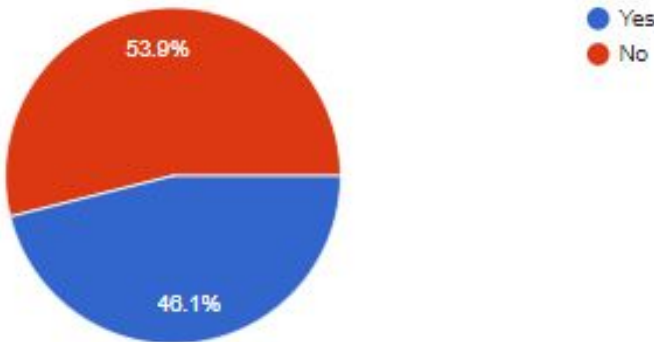
163 responses



Experiences

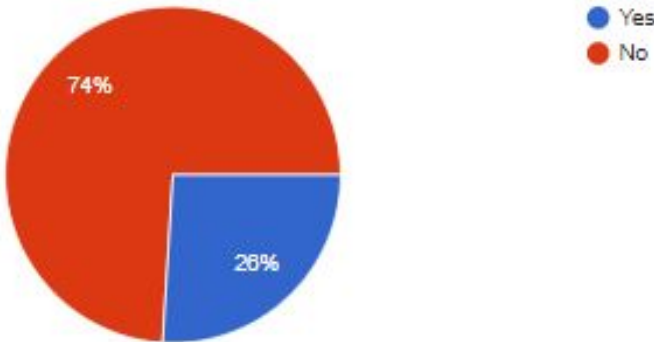
Did you ever learn about racism in school?

154 responses



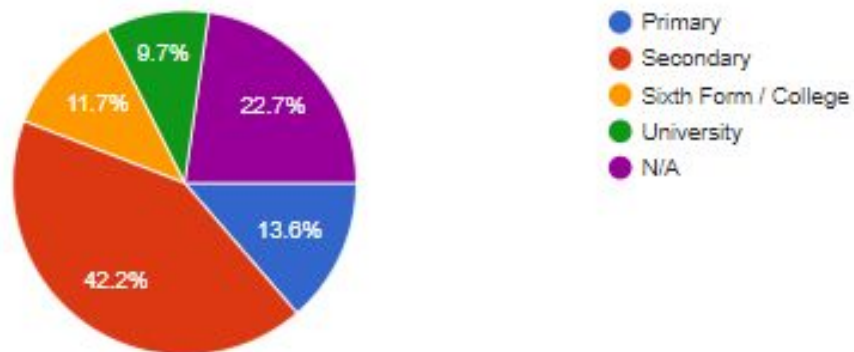
Did you learn about racial diversity in school?

154 responses



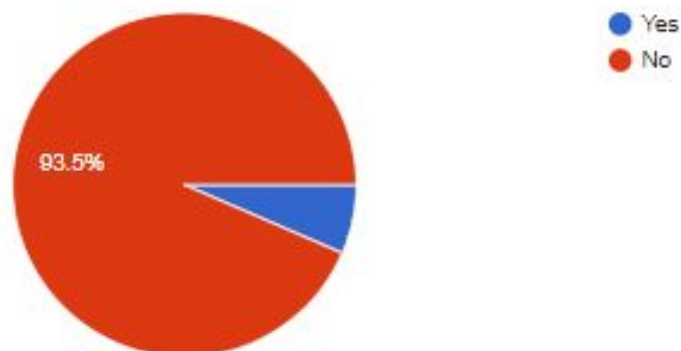
At which level of education did you first learn about racism?

154 responses



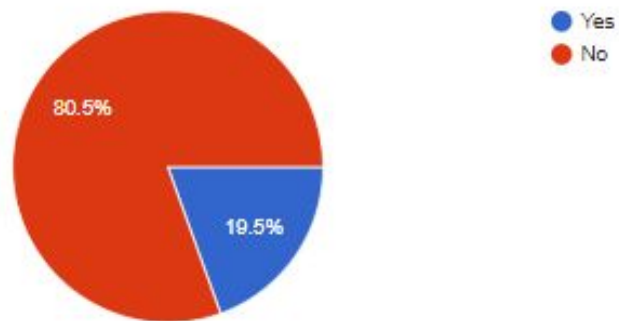
Do you believe you had a sufficient understanding of racism leaving primary school?

154 responses



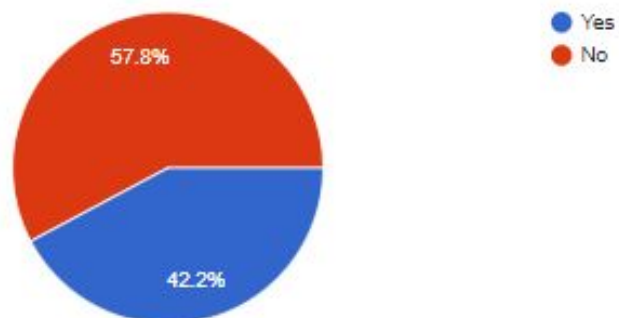
Do you believe you had a sufficient understanding of racism leaving secondary school?

154 responses



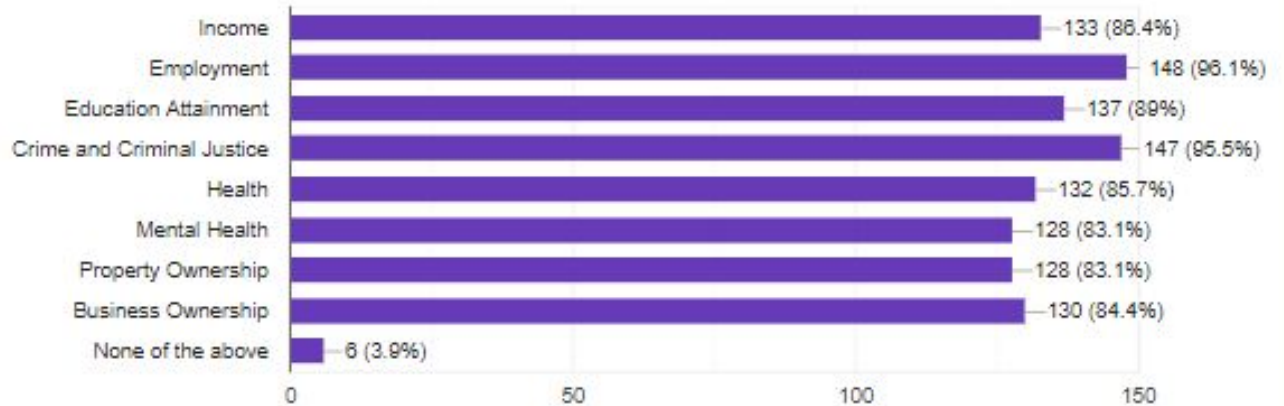
Do you believe you have sufficient understanding of the present-day racial inequalities in the UK?

154 responses



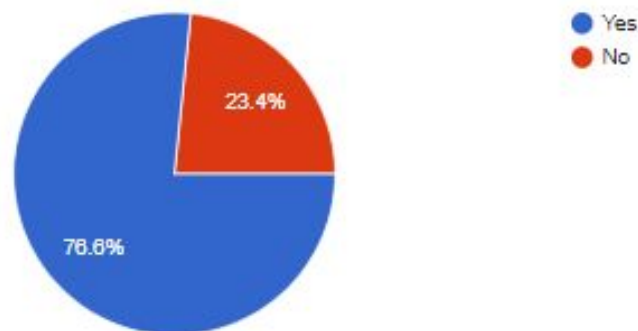
Which areas do you believe there is racial inequality?

154 responses



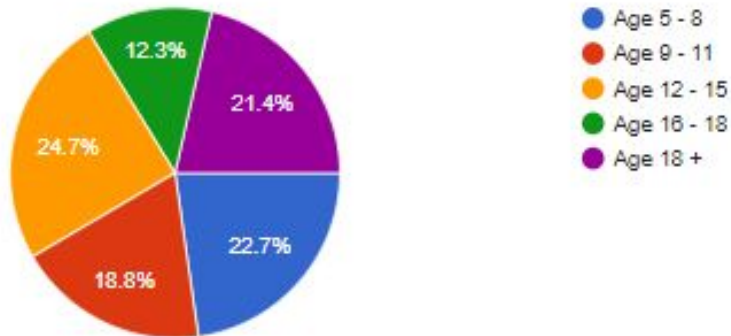
Do you feel like you experienced differential treatment due to your race?

154 responses



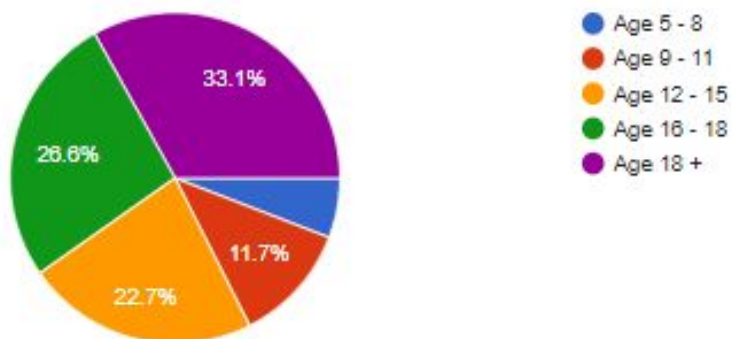
When was the first time you felt you experienced differential treatment due to your race?

154 responses



At what age did you thoroughly understand you had differential treatment due to your race?

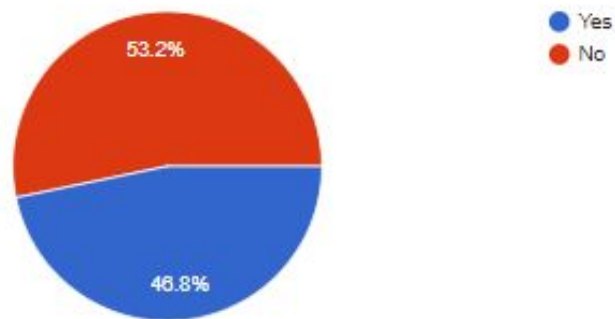
154 responses



The following questions are in reference to experiences in secondary school.

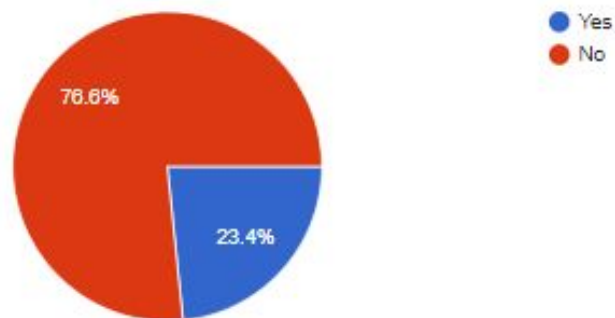
Did you consider your school to be racially diverse?

154 responses



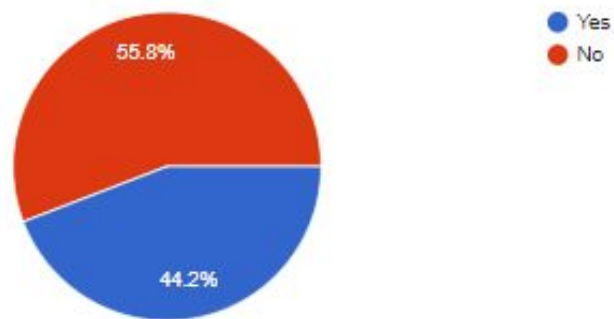
Did you consider the staff in your school to be racially diverse?

154 responses



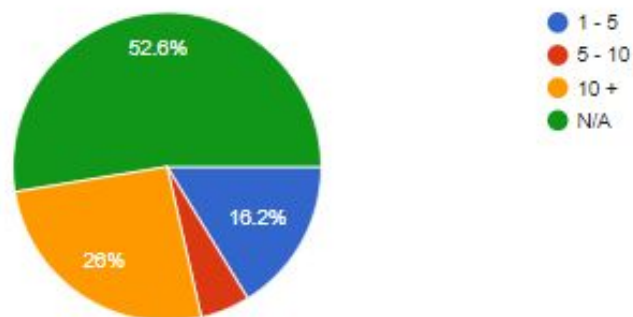
Did you experience racism at school?

154 responses



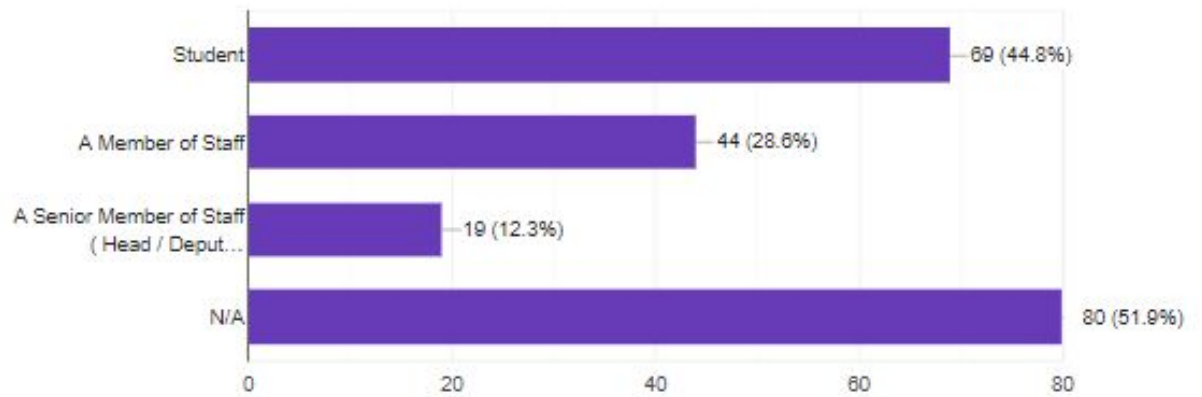
How many times do you believe you experienced racism in school?

154 responses



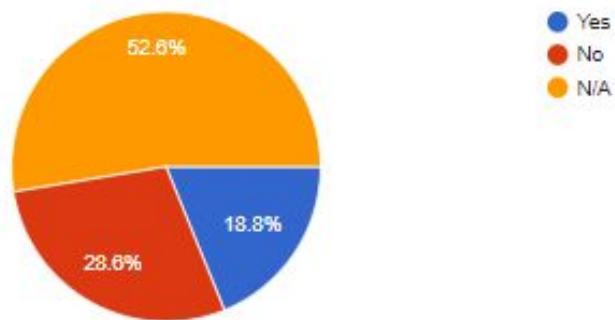
Who did you experience racism from? (You can pick multiple answers)

154 responses



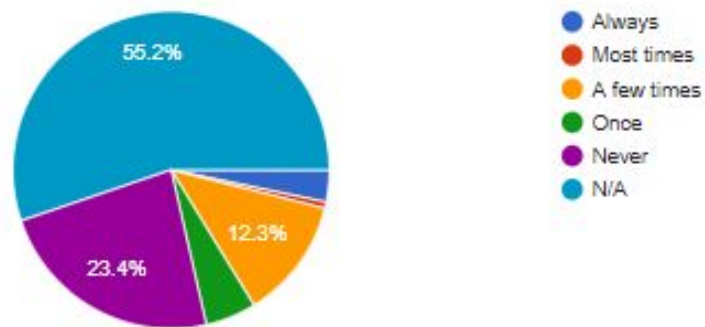
Did you ever report it?

154 responses



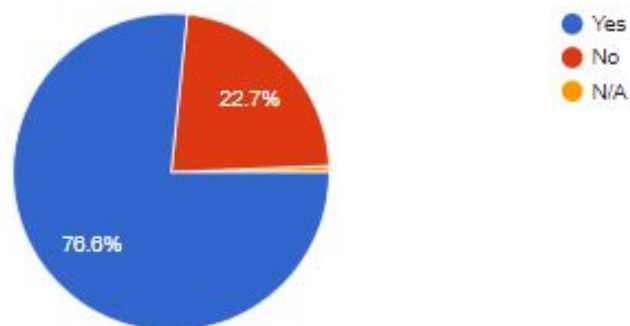
How often did you report it?

154 responses



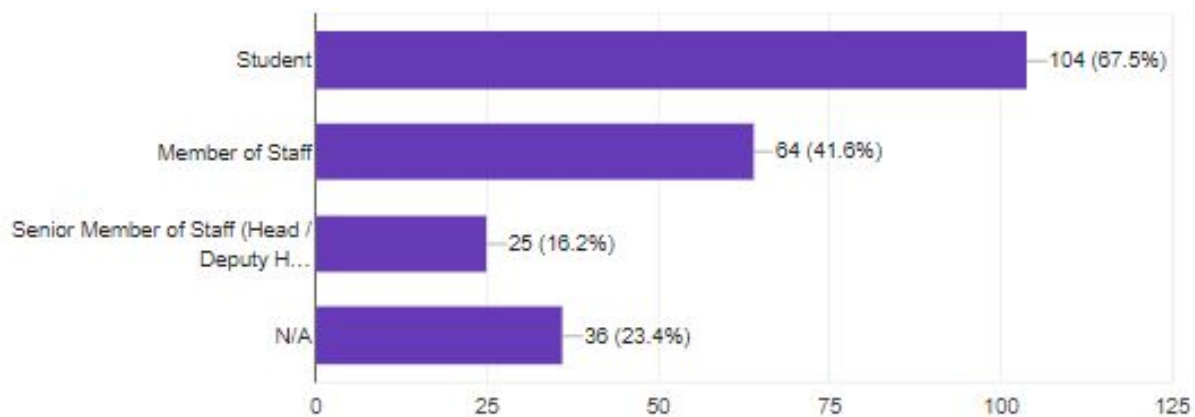
Did you witness other students experiencing racism?

154 responses



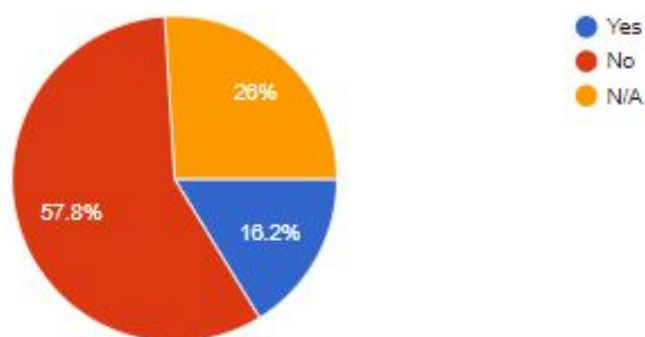
Who did they experience racism from? (You can pick multiple answers)

154 responses



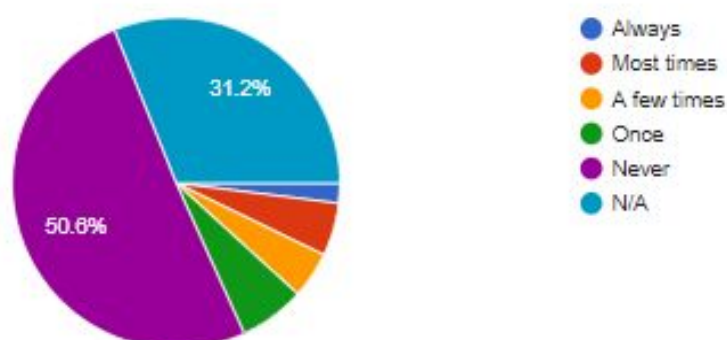
Did you ever report it?

154 responses



How often did you report it?

154 responses



Briefly explain why you chose to / chose not to report racism? (If you were not the victim of / did not witness any racism please write n/a)

154 responses

N/a

N/A

n/a

No Reason

I did not want to get involved, as I believed that nothing would have been done to fix the issue.

Stopped reporting because the school never did anything as well as hearing other people's failed experiences reporting

That's life

N/a

Fear of not being believed. You know nothing will be done about it.

Didn't know how to go about it

I didn't realise at the time that it was racism

didn't have a deep enough understanding what was happening and where to go with wrong action

Because I knew they would do NOTHING about it. I had reported it once before only for NOTHING to be done about it. Plus, having seen multiple other people experience the EXACT same thing. I lost hope in asking for help hence, became violent from built up ANGER and FRUSTRATION! Students confronted other students!

Because it offended me

I was too young or decided to just speak or do something about it that day and leave it.

I didn't realise it was racism at the time because it was played off as "banter"

I was too young to understand the situation and how it could be dealt with

It was quite obvious that something was off and there was a feeling that people would be held accountable. But that never happened.

At the time we weren't aware of the severity

I told my parents but never told staff members- so many friends were taking part in racism that came in the form of jokes or "banter". I knew I was wrong and I would call out my peers who didn't it, if they didn't intimidate me, but i never told a member of staff and looking back I can't understand why I didn't.

I didn't know who to report it to

It was wrong

Thought that was just the way it is and reporting would do nothing

they wouldn't try to understand

It was a passing comment from a student to another student about being oriental and the student made her eyes look like slits. Even though there was an oriental student in the room when the racist student did the act. I didn't know the extent of racism and didn't realise that came under it unfortunately.

It felt normal

No infrastructure to report it/not aware/educated enough to know what to do

Equality justice

Teachers and staff didn't really do anything about other situations of racism growing up, So i didn't think anything could be done for me

I reported it because I felt it was unfair how the teacher was treating me. She kept sending me into lower sets and I kept getting moved up to her class and she said I was never good enough. She eventually left because she done it to other people and the school couldn't deal with the complaints anymore. The other times were from students I never reported it because nothing will happen.

To report to the people in charge? Who discriminated based on race and then report to THEM that THEY were wrong. Without acting I knew nothing would come from it.

In my school we got in trouble for reporting anything that they deemed "not important", which they included racism within

There was no one to report these issues to given that the headteacher herself and other senior members of staff were quite openly racist.

Growing up in a mainly white area I didn't believe it would have an effect

At the time I didn't realise it was micro aggression, therefore didn't report

i knew that nothing would be done about it

Loss of friends

Because it is not acceptable.

The report would have gone no further than me writing an account of what happened.

Feeling uncomfortable

The teachers and authority in the school were well aware and it was clear that nothing would really change. It was considered "banter"

At the time I wasn't aware that it was racism. It was always passed off as a joke and we were not taught about racism properly. Looking back I can recognise many cases of racism, racist comments, racial insensitivities etc that were passed off as "jokes" at the time that I would not accept now.

I didn't know how to report incidents involving staff

Because it also happened to everyone else

It wasn't taught to us that it was wrong and we should report it

Often misunderstood or judged to be too sensitive, victimize myself because "isn't racist"

us as students stepped up and confronted the other students ourselves

It seemed normal and acceptable

Because you could see the effect it had on the boy, while everyone was busy laughing he became very secluded and seemed to be quite distant

I didn't feel it was my place and it felt like a very serious allegation without a lot of evidence. The victim didn't seem to care.

I would console/check on the victim but they never brought it up as an issue to report. Often the racism was 'jokes' and from friends

Because no one would take it seriously and it's apparently worse to call someone racist than to actually be racist

I reported it a few times but it never was addressed and the people were never reprimanded so saw no point in reporting anymore at times I would be out to blame for people being racially insensitive

After a while I stopped, as teachers were saying that students are just "naughty".... i wish i had the knowledge and courage that I do now, back then, to argue with those teachers

it was more covert but when i look back it was definitely racial prejudice. i felt if uk spoke up id just be dismissed as they never took my report about racism seriously

Got asked to not in case of it affecting their grades/status in school

It was a normal part of school life

We were the minority by numbers. It felt futile

I was not aware of the seriousness situation at the time but wish I spoke up about it.

Our school claimed they were anti-racist when putting that claim to the test they failed

We thought it would make a difference but we're soon shut down and told it wasn't a race issue

I was a shy kid, didn't like getting involved

they were always passing comments, due to poor education, i never realised how they could actually be considered racism and very hurtful

I was scared of getting targeted too

Jokes based on racism were very common in my school. At the time, I thought there was no issue because they were jokes.

Just felt like there was no point bc nothing would be done

nothing would have happened

At the time I was not aware it was racism as it was covered by the idea that it was 'banter' which I now know that it was most definitely not just 'banter'.

Only in hindsight + through conversations since school have I realised certain things happened due to racism (even if it that racism was subconscious)

Not me.

So when I retaliate they can't say I never tried to reason

I never stopped reporting it, I wanted those assholes to lose their jobs.

I was Bullied for my race and skin colour from when I started school and did not report it till year six because I was afraid to get beaten up and I always did in school.

No one will believe us, especially when it is staff members

Pointless if the victim wasn't I willing to

If you don't report it. People don't think about their actions/whether they knew it was racism and so don't have an opportunity to reflect and change.

I didn't really see it as a big deal till it started to effect me emotinally, to the point I wanted to lash out...

N:a

scared of what would happen if others found out i had reported it

It's too normalised and they don't care

Racism doesn't exist in society, I say that as a black male, we are all treated the same, get over your victim complex

It feels like too unserious of a topic. There aren't appropriate mechanisms made aware to students to ensure that we can appropriately rectify the issue. It is also difficult to define what is/isn't racist in a classroom context.

At the time, I took it for banter when in fact it was racism

Right thing to do

I'd get in trouble for false accusations

Not in my nature

I asked if they wanted to report it but they thought it would just make things worse for them so asked me not to report it

The school wouldn't have done anything because they don't have any 'evidence' except our word so we decided to talk to the teacher instead

Nothing every happens when it is reported. It gets brushed off and forgotten about.

A lot of it was covert racism, so a) its difficult to understand what is happening to you at a young age especially when no one talks about it and b) its difficult to explain to seniors covert racism as they also dont have an understanding of it

Fear of being ridiculed - the knowledge that it would only get swept under the rug.

Didn't realise it at the time

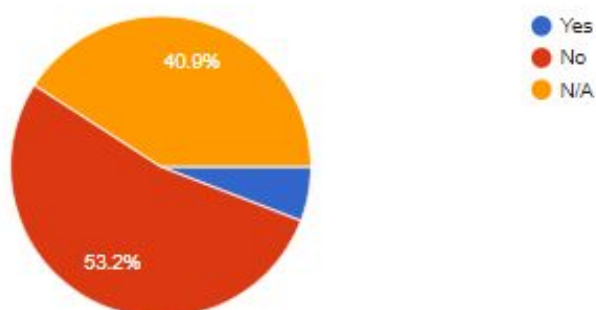
I picked up on the fact that 'minor' incidents were not taken seriously by teachers. I focussed on supporting my friends rather than expecting all white teachers to do anything. They actually did nothing about other types of bullying either.

Many of my friends would experience racism, not really in school but on group chats including people from school. I would screenshot and screen record all racist comments etc and my friends and I were going to send emails to our headteacher about racist students but because they changed schools it was too late. At my school, when many racist situation occurs the teachers don't rally do anything apart from out them in isolation for a day, which I think is ineffective because it doesn't teach them why they were being racist and many students are continually racist because of the lack of anti-racist education.

At the time I didn't realise what was happening was in fact racism. Only now, upon reflection and through further education around the subject do I know that it was

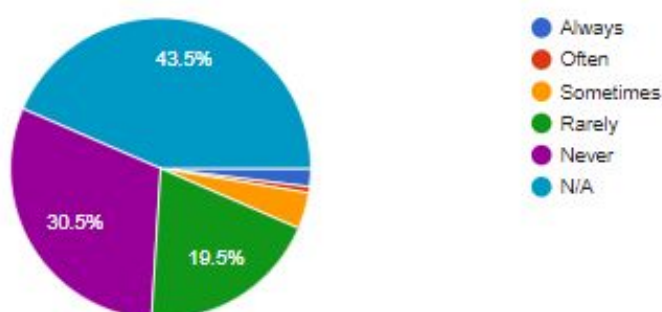
Do you feel the issue was taken seriously?

154 responses



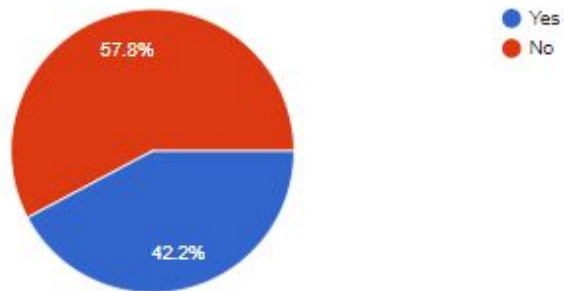
Do you feel the consequences were appropriate?

154 responses



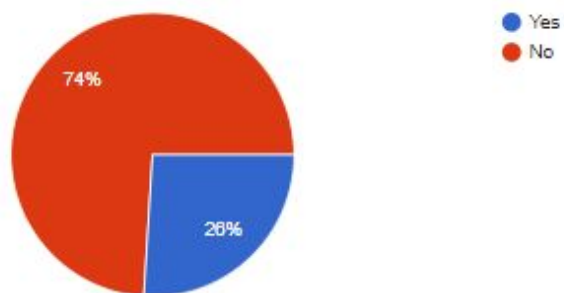
Did you learn about racism in school?

154 responses



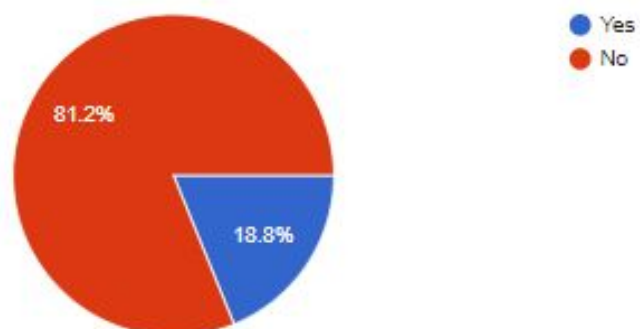
Did you learn about racism against different racial groups in school?

154 responses



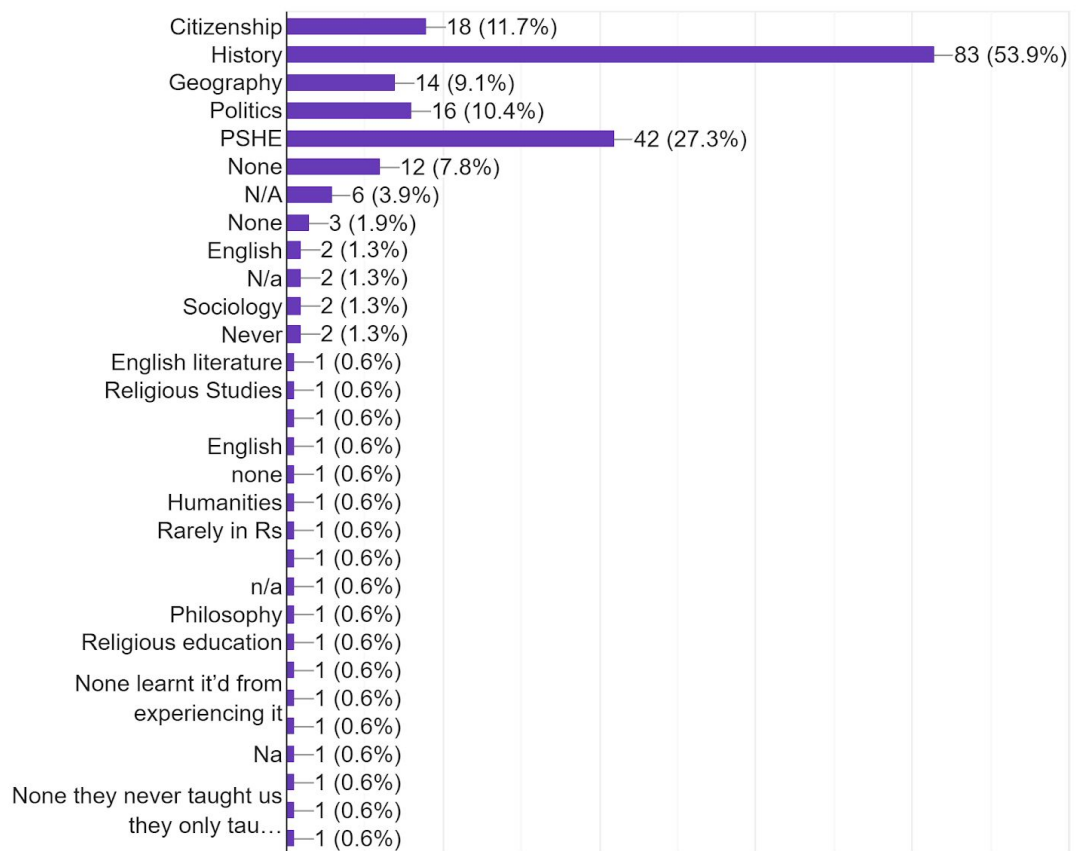
Were you taught why racism exists in school?

154 responses



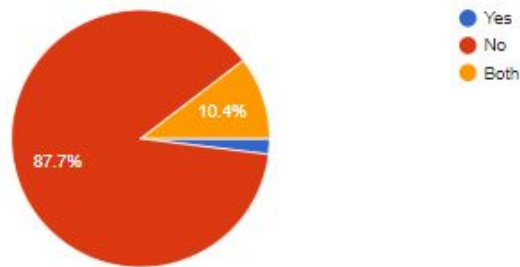
In which subjects were you taught about racism?

154 responses



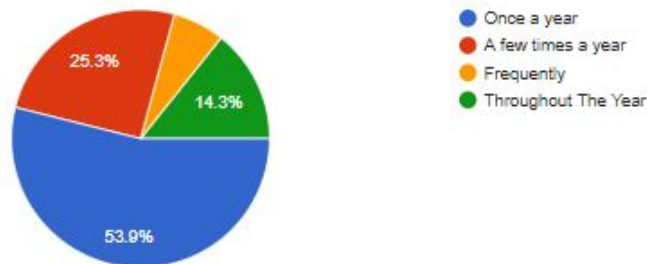
Did these lessons come from a teacher with a minority ethnic background?

154 responses



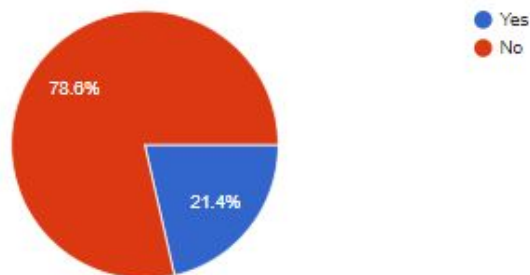
How often did these lessons occur?

154 responses



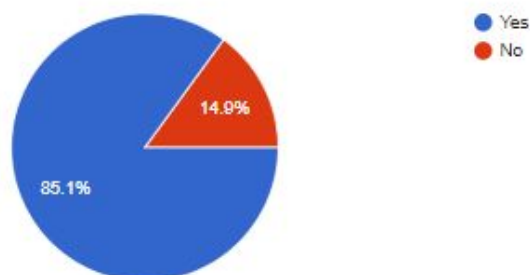
Did these lessons occur every year?

154 responses



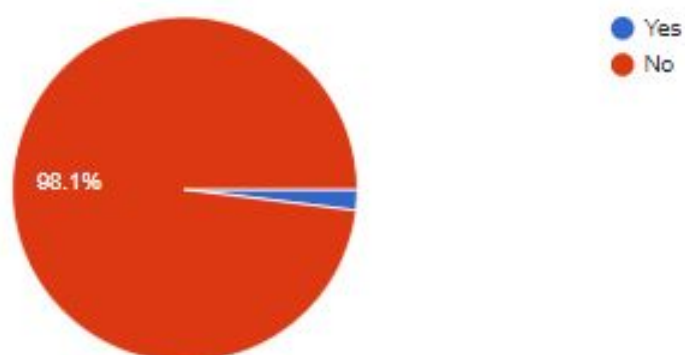
Do you understand the difference between non-racist and anti-racist?

154 responses



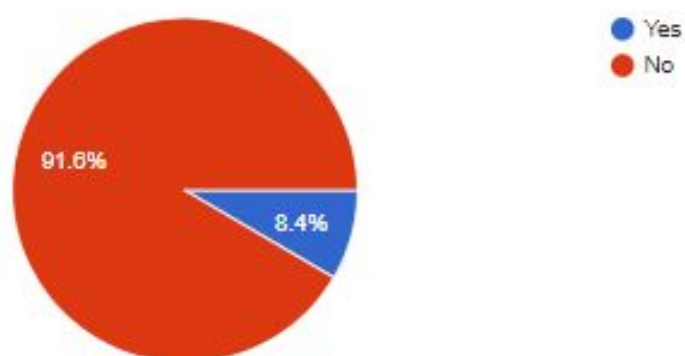
Do you believe your school taught you the difference between being non-racist and anti-racist?

154 responses



Do you believe your school had an anti-racist curriculum?

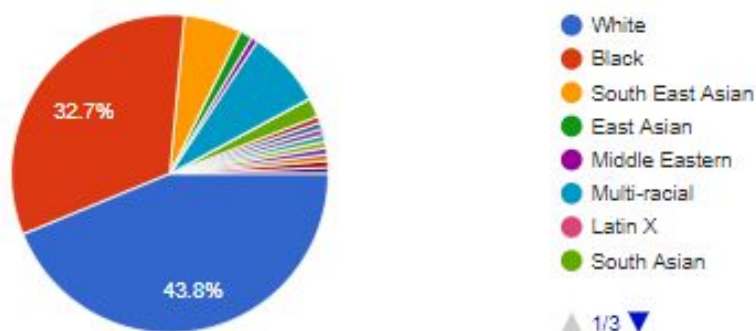
154 responses



The following questions equality monitoring and valuable to our research

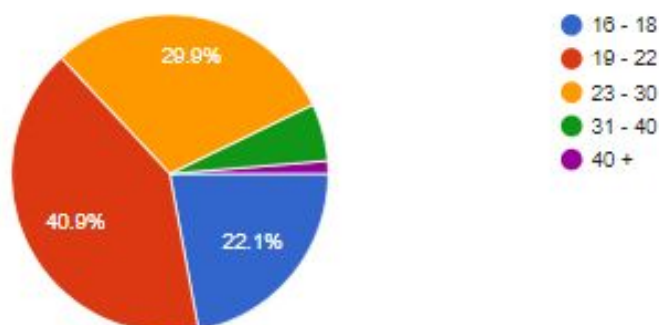
What is your ethnic group?

153 responses



What is your age

154 responses



- Indian and polish (south Asian)
- jewish
- British Indian
- mixed race
- White black Caribbean
- Bulgarian
- Pacific Islander
- Mixed European

▲ 2/3 ▼

- South Asian

▲ 3/3 ▼