

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act

The Race Relations Act 1976 as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act gives public authorities a statutory general duty to promote race equality. The aim of the general duty is to make promoting race equality central to the way public authorities work; and this includes schools. The general duty has two main parts:

- eliminate unlawful racial discrimination; and
- promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different racial groups.

Ofsted inspectors will be looking to see evidence of how you are meeting the general duty.

By forming links between schools with a high percentage of Ethnic Minority pupils and schools with a high percentage of white British pupils, School Linking can be a powerful tool in helping schools to fulfil their obligations under this Act.

In order to make progress towards achieving race equality links must be done with sensitivity and careful planning (see HOW section). Link activities should include preparation activities for example; exploring racism, identity and similarities/differences. Staff need to understand the differences between schools before any link activities take place and where appropriate staff training should be provided.

Link activities can also promote equality of opportunity by providing opportunities through a link school that are not usually available to pupils, by using participatory methodologies (eg **P4C**) and activities that encourage pupils to value other people's opinions and through the use of **community builders** that promote equality and a safe environment.

See the Case Studies for examples especially the link between Burnley and Accrington for evidence of a link combating racism and promoting good relations between people of different racial groups.

For more information on Race Equality visit:

www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/ethnicminorities/raising_achievement/763611/