



National Independent Education Coalition
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Our ref:NIEC/DfES/FM1/8/07

We are in receipt of your letter dated May 2007.

NIEC acknowledged and are please to see you have made good inroads in trying to establish an inclusive curriculum for all.

The 'Inclusion Statement' which is now a legal requirement is an excellent start, NIEC however would like to know how will this legal requirement be monitored and measured to ensure effectiveness and what special measures or sanctions will be implemented should this legal requirement fall below acceptable levels of inclusion.

One can not ignore the fact that there are already mountains of resource information, good practice guides, commissioned reviews etc; which teachers are overwhelmed with. Yet the problem continues to exist.

The voluntary and community sector have been working for many, many years in providing external services to support and improve educational attainment of African & Caribbean children, however much of the success is unseen, unheard of or often ignored.

In 2002 NFER-Nelson undertook an extensive piece of research on pupil attitude of supplementary schools, on behalf of the DFES and CfBT. The research clearly showed that pupils enjoyed and valued supplementary schools; some evidence also showed this impacted on their learning & attainment; yet today the report is redundant and community services are

still under resourced; with most schools very reluctant to work in partnership with community groups.

The NIEC represents all educational agencies and voluntary groups, parents and professionals in the UK, who are concerned about the consistent poor attainment of black children.

Although some progress has been made, there is still much more improvement to be made to ensure that attainment results are based on ability and not ethnicity.

A more inclusive curriculum is just one of many priorities that NIEC is championing. We have a wealth of experience and expertise and a network of over 3,000 agencies and individuals nationally which we represent. We are very keen to develop a working relationship with the DfES, where the lines of communication are open and productive in enhancing community cohesion and race equality in education.

Cohesion Minister Parmjit Dhanda recently stated "Local people know their communities better than anyone. I want to make sure Government is supporting small and locally based projects, who are often best placed to reach out to members of the community and find creative solutions to help people access services, challenge racism and bring people together". Aug 2007

The External Advisory Group for 14 – 19 year old Education could be one possibility where you may find NIEC's contribution useful, also Stakeholders groups.

We are very open to ideas you may have and would welcome a meeting or further conversations where we could fully discuss the role of NIEC and how this could complement the working priorities of the DfES.

NIEC would like you to seriously consider the possibilities above and to discuss this with the relevant departments within DfES, we look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely

Francesca Muhammad
Chairperson, N.I.E.C.
National Independent Education Coalition

