

Services for Children and Young People in Buckinghamshire



Racist Incidents in Buckinghamshire Schools

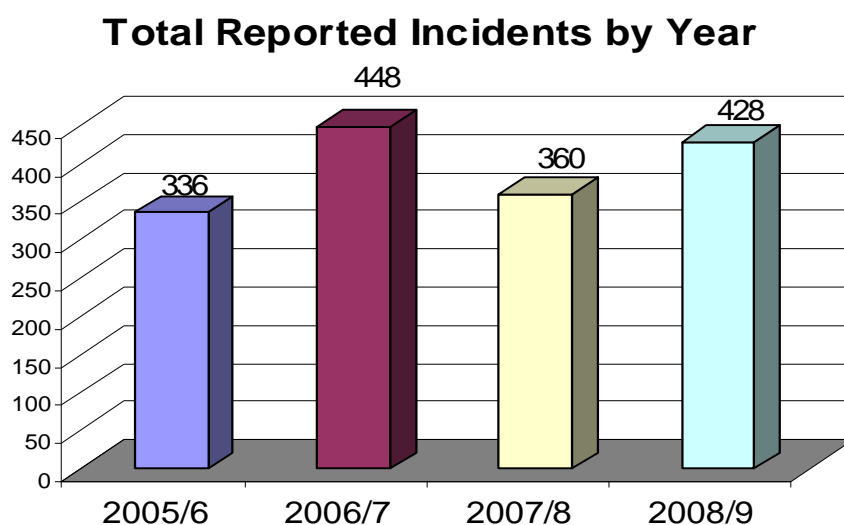
Annual Report
on Returns for
2008-2009

**Children and Young People's
Services**



Main Findings

There were 68 more incidents reported in 2008/9 than 2007/8: an 18.88% increase across Buckinghamshire's Primary and Secondary Schools. However, the number of incidents is still to fall below its 2005/6 level (see graph below). The figures for Special Schools are also included in this report. 100% of monitoring forms were returned from all schools.



Primary Schools

The total number of reported incidents for 2008/9 in Primary Schools was 169 incidents. A slight increase (4.32%), from 2007/8 when 162 incidents were reported and a 27.77% decrease from 2006/7 when 234 incidents were reported. In 2005/6, 197 incidents were reported.

Aylesbury Vale 55 racist incidents reported, slightly up from 52 (5.7%) in 2007/8 and down from 63 in 2006/7.

Wycombe 61 racist incidents reported, a slight decrease from 64 (4.8%) in 2007/8 and significantly down from 114 in 2006/7.

Chiltern¹ 29 racist incidents reported, down from 35 (17%) in 2007/8 and up from 27 in 2006/7.

South Bucks 24 racist incidents reported, significantly up from 11 (118%) in 2007/8 and down from 30 in 2006/7.

Secondary Schools

The total number of reported incidents in Secondary Schools for 2008/9 was 182. An 8.08% decrease from 2007/8 when 198 incidents were reported. This was a decrease from 2006/7 (214 incidents); however still an increase from 2005/6 when 139 incidents were reported.

Aylesbury Vale 34 racist incidents reported, down from 47 (27.66%) in 2007/8 and 59 in 2006/7.

Wycombe 93 racist incidents reported, down from 111 (16.22%) in 2007/8 and 101 in 2006/7.

Chiltern 39 racist incidents reported, up from 28 (39.28%) in 2007/8 and 33 in 2006/7.

South Bucks 16 racist incidents reported, up from 12 (33.33%) in 2007/8 and 21 in 2006/7.

¹ This is the second year in which Chiltern and South Bucks have been reported as separate districts.

Pupil Incident Ratio² Comparison

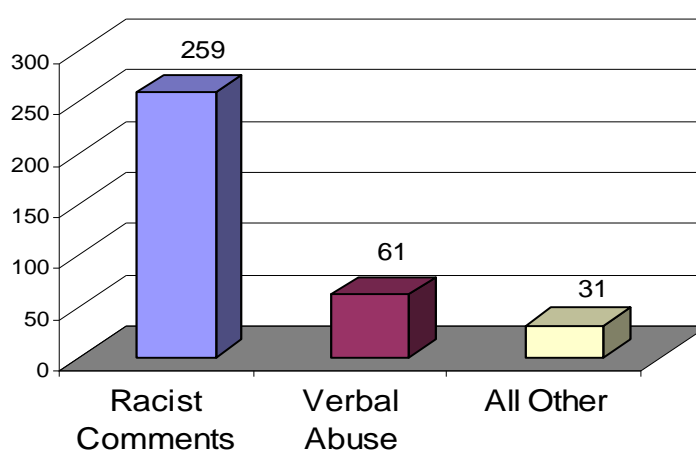
Aylesbury Vale had the lowest pupil/incident ratio in Primary Schools 0.38 followed by Chiltern with 0.39, Wycombe with 0.45 and South Bucks having the highest ratio with 0.545.

In Secondary Schools the lowest pupil/incident ratio occurred in Aylesbury Vale with 0.286 followed by Chiltern with 0.438, South Bucks with 0.473 and Wycombe with the highest ratio at 0.887.²

Prevalence of types of incident

The most common type of incident in both primary and Secondary Schools was “racist comments”, followed by “verbal abuse”. In Primary Schools there were 122 racist comments, 32 incidents of Verbal Abuse and 6 Physical Assaults. In Secondary Schools there were 137 racist comments, 29 incidents of verbal abuse and 4 incidents of racist graffiti. The graph illustrates the combined total of incidents in Primary and Secondary Schools.

Types of Incidents 2008/9



Location

In Primary Schools, the majority of incidents took place in the playground, followed by the classroom.

In Secondary Schools, the majority of incidents took place in the classroom, followed by the playground.

See the table below for a break down of the figures.

District	Primary Schools				Secondary Schools			
	Classroom	Playground	Outside School	Public Areas	Classroom	Playground	Outside School	Public Areas
A'bury Vale	12	40	3	0	23	10	0	1
Wycombe	17	42	0	2	59	13	8	13
Chiltern	9	19	1	0	26	9	1	3
S. Bucks	8	12	1	3	9	7	0	0
Total	46	113	5	5	117	39	9	17
Percentage	27.22%	66.86%	2.96%	2.96%	64.29%	21.43%	4.94%	9.34%
TOTAL³				169				182

² Pupil Incident Ratio calculated using formula: '(Number of incidents/school roll) X 100' School roll obtained from census figures from January 2009, (i.e. during the period covered by this report).

Exclusions arising from racist incidents

There was a (1) fixed term exclusion in a (Wycombe) Primary School during 2008/9.

No fixed term exclusions reported in Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern or South Bucks.

There were 26 fixed term exclusions in Secondary Schools during 2008/9 – 12 in Chiltern, 10 in Wycombe and 4 in Aylesbury Vale. South Bucks reported no fixed term exclusions.

There were no permanent exclusions reported throughout the County for both Primary and Secondary schools.

Special Schools

Special schools reported 77 incidents this year, 38 (49%) less than in 2007/8 when 115 incidents were reported.

Pupil Referral Units only reported 2 incidents during 2008/9, the same number reported in 2007/8.

Ethnic profile of Buckinghamshire Schools

The table below provides the numbers and proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic pupils by district and type of school.⁴

District	Primary			Secondary			Special		
	Roll	BME ⁵	%	Roll	BME	%	Roll	BME	%
Aylesbury Vale	14,371	2,724	18.95	11,866	2,042	17.21	440	103	23.41
Wycombe	13,593	4,440	32.66	10,488	3,013	28.73	183	71	38.80
Chiltern	7,440	1,298	17.44	8,902	1,557	17.49	364	96	26.37
South Bucks	4,403	1,230	27.94	3,379	855	25.30	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL:	39,807	9,692	24.35	34,635	7,467	21.56	987	270	27.36

District	All Schools		
	Roll	BME	%
Aylesbury Vale	26,677	4,869	18.25
Wycombe	24,264	7,524	31.00
Chiltern	16,706	2,951	17.66
South Bucks	7,782	2,085	26.79
TOTAL:	75,429	17,429	23.10

⁴ Figures from January 2009 census

⁵ BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) figures are those whose ethnicity was not recorded as 'White British'

Racist Incidents in Primary Schools

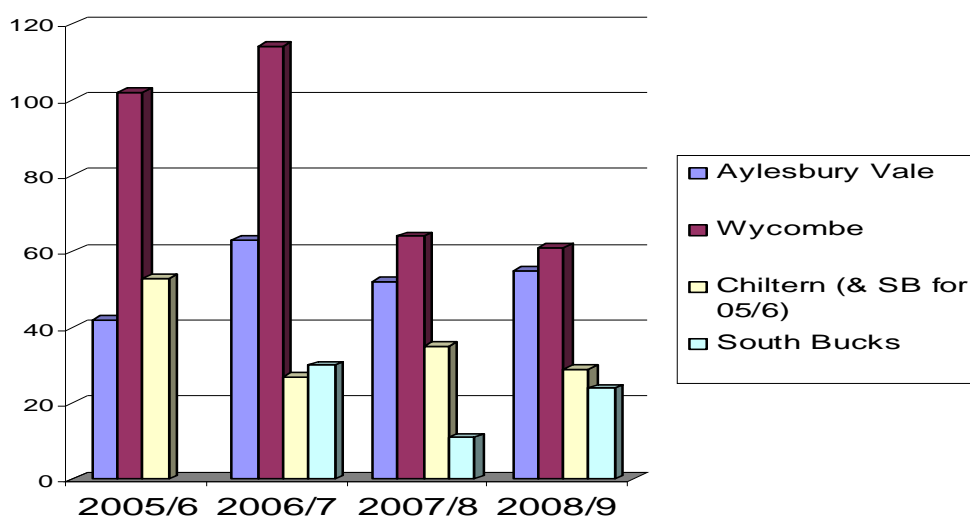
The following tables and graphs provide the type and number of incidents at Primary Schools in each district and provide a comparison with previous years.

TYPE OF INCIDENT	Aylesbury Vale			Wycombe			Chiltern			South Bucks		
	07/08	08/09	+/-	07/08	08/09	+/-	07/08	08/09	+/-	07/08	08/09	+/-
Verbal Abuse	10	20	+10	11	7	-4	5	4	-1	3	1	-2
Racist Comment	40	31	-9	50	50	-	15	20	+5	8	21	+13
Physical Assault	0	2	+2	1	0	-1	6	3	-3	0	1	+1
Damage to Property	0	0	-	0	0	-	1	0	-1	0	0	-
Racist Graffiti	0	0	-	1	0	-1	1	0	-1	0	0	-
Discriminatory Behaviour	2	1	-1	1	4	+3	4	0	-4	0	0	-
Incitement to Others	0	0	-	0	0	-	1	1	-	0	0	-
Other	0	1	+1	0	0	-	2	1	+1	0	1	+1
TOTAL:	52	55	+3	64	61	-3	35	29	-6	11	24	+13
% Change:	Increase of 5.7%			Decrease of 4.7%			Decrease of 17.1%			Increase of 118%		
Reported to Police	0	0	-	0	0	-	1	0	-1	0	0	-

Total Number of Reported Incidents by District - Primary

District	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	%Change 05/06 – 08/09	%Change 06/07 – 08/09	% Change 07/08 – 08/09
Aylesbury Vale	42	63	52	55	+30.95	-12.69%	+5.7%
Wycombe	102	114	64	61	-40.19%	-46.49%	-4.7%
Chiltern	53 ⁶	27	35	29	0%	+7.41%	-17.1%
South Bucks		30	11	24		-20.00%	+118%
COUNTY:	197	234	162	169	-14.21%	-27.77%	+4.32%

Yearly Comparisons - Primary



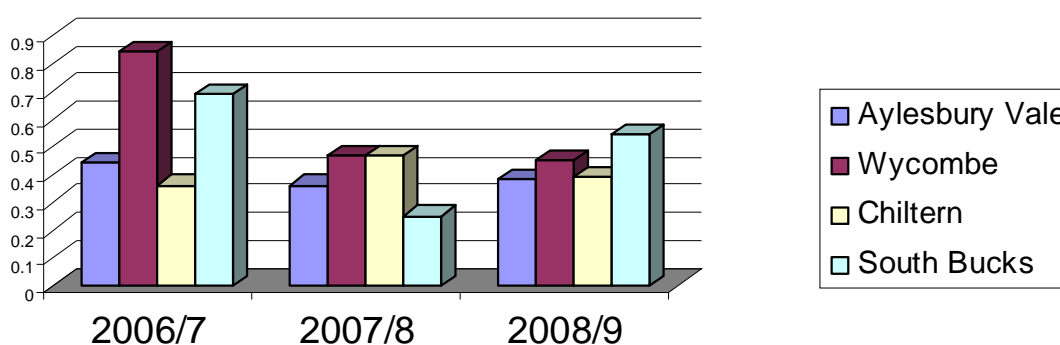
⁶ The data available for 2005/6 does not allow separate analysis of Chiltern and South Bucks, therefore a combined total and comparison for both districts is recorded here.

Pupil Incident Ratio

The following table and graphs provide both Pupil Incident Ratio numbers for Primary Schools for the 2008/9 academic year along with a comparison with the 2007/8 and 2006/7 figures.

District	No. On Roll	Number of Incidents	Pupil Incident Ratio			Change in PIR
	January 2009	08/09	06/07 ⁷	07/08	08/09	07/08 to 08/09
Aylesbury Vale	14,371	55	0.44	0.36	0.38	+0.02
Wycombe	13,593	61	0.84	0.47	0.45	-0.02
Chiltern	7,440	29	0.36	0.465	0.39	-0.075
South Bucks	4,403	24	0.69	0.25	0.545	+0.029
County:	39,807	169	0.60	0.41	0.42	+0.01

Pupil Incident Ratio - Primary



⁷ The PIR for 2006/7 has been adjusted from the figures appearing in last year's report using census data from January 2007,

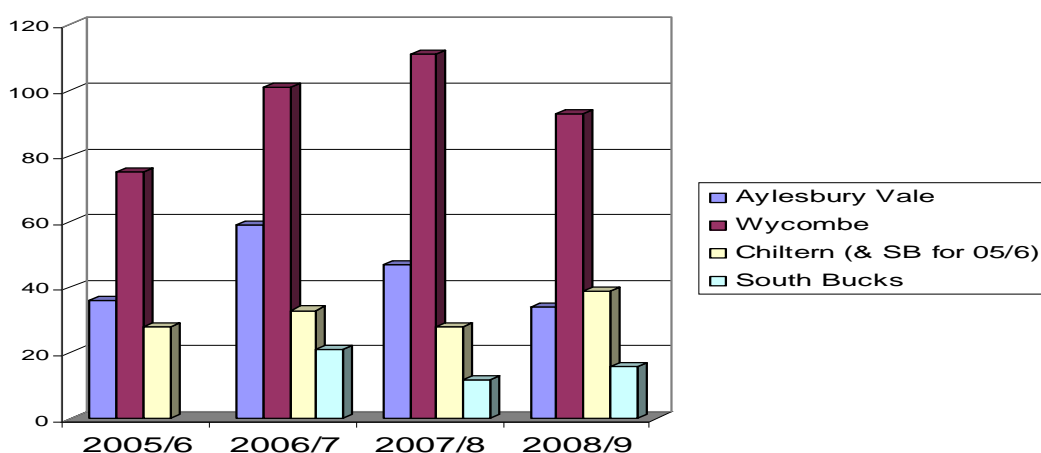
Racist Incidents in Secondary Schools

The following tables and graphs provide the number of incidents at Secondary Schools in each district and provide a comparison with the figures of 2008/9 with the three previous years.

	Aylesbury Vale			Wycombe			Chiltern			South Bucks		
	07/08	08/09	+/-	07/08	08/09	+/-	07/08	08/09	+/-	07/08	08/09	+/-
Verbal Abuse	12	3	-9	11	8	-3	7	11	+4	0	7	+7
Racist Comment	31	27	-4	99	75	-24	16	26	+10	11	9	-2
Physical Assault	1	0	-1	1	3	+2	0	0	-	0	0	-
Damage to Property	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-
Racist Graffiti	0	2	+2	0	2	+2	3	0	-3	1	0	-1
Discriminatory Behaviour	1	1	-	0	0	-	1	2	+1	0	0	-
Incitement to Others	0	1	+1	0	1	+1	1	0	-1	0	0	-
Other	2	0	-2	0	4	+4	0	0	-	0	0	-
TOTAL:	47	34	-13	111	93	-18	28	39	+11	12	16	+4
% Change	Decrease of 27.66%			Decrease of 16.22%			Increase of 39.28%			Increase of 33.33%		
Reported to Police	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-

Total Number of Reported Incidents by District - Secondary						
District	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	%Change 06/07 – 07/08	% Change 07/08 – 08/09
Aylesbury Vale	36	59	47	34	-20%	-27.66%
Wycombe	75	101	111	93	+10% ⁸	-16.22%
Chiltern	28 ⁹	33	28	39	-15%	+39.28%
South Bucks		21	12	16	-43%	+33.33%
COUNTY:	139	214	198	182	-7%	-8.08%

Yearly Comparisons - Secondary



⁸ The increase in incidents at Wycombe Secondary Schools is due to a large increase in racist comments however there is a recorded decrease in physical assaults and instances of verbal abuse on the previous year.

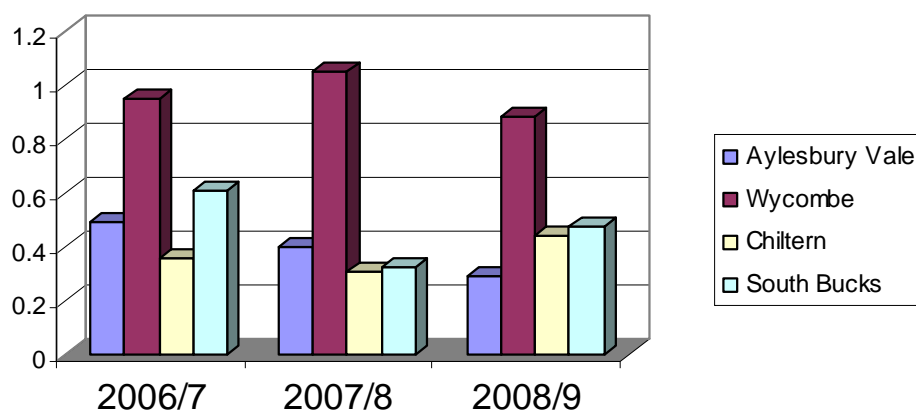
⁹ The data available for 2005/6 does not allow separate analysis of Chiltern and South Bucks, therefore a combined total and comparison for both districts is recorded here.

Pupil Incident Ratio

The following table and graphs provide both Pupil Incident Ratio numbers for Secondary Schools for the 2008/9 academic year along with a comparison of previous year's figures.

District	Num On Roll January 2009	Number of Incidents 2008/9	Pupil Incident Ratio			Difference in PIR
			06/07 ¹⁰	07/08	08/09	07/08 to 08/09
Aylesbury Vale	11,866	34	0.49	0.395	0.286	-0.109
Wycombe	10,488	93	0.95	1.05	0.887	-0.163
Chiltern	8,902	39	0.36	0.31	0.438	+0.128
South Bucks	3,379	16	0.61	0.32	0.473	+0.153
County Total:	34,635	182	0.60	0.57	0.525	-0.045

Pupil Incident Ratio - Secondary



Nil>Returns

The following figures analyse the number of schools reporting incidents in contrast to those reporting none ("Nil-returns").

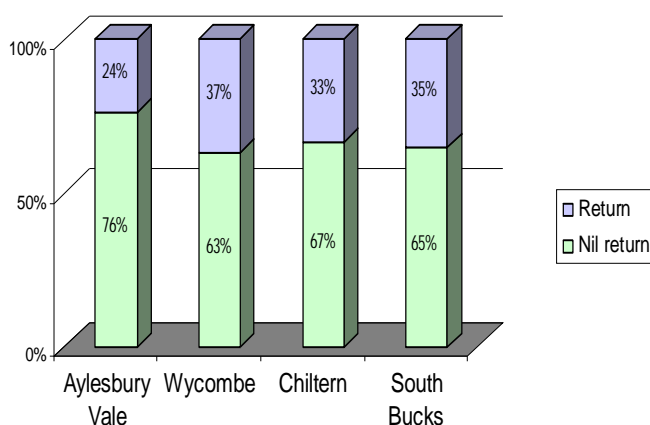
The figures show an increase on last year with nine more Primary Schools no racist incidents at all.

District	Primary School Returns						Change in Nil>Returns 07/08 to 08/09	Number of Schools 08/09
	06/07		07/08		08/09			
	Returns	Nil>Returns	Returns	Nil>Returns	Returns	Nil>Returns		
Aylesbury Vale	27	44	17	50	16	51	+1	67
Wycombe	24	33	26	31	21	36	+5	57
Chiltern	16	23	11	28	13	26	-2	39
South Bucks	9	11	12	8	7	13	+5	20
ALL:	76	111	67	117	57	126	+9	183

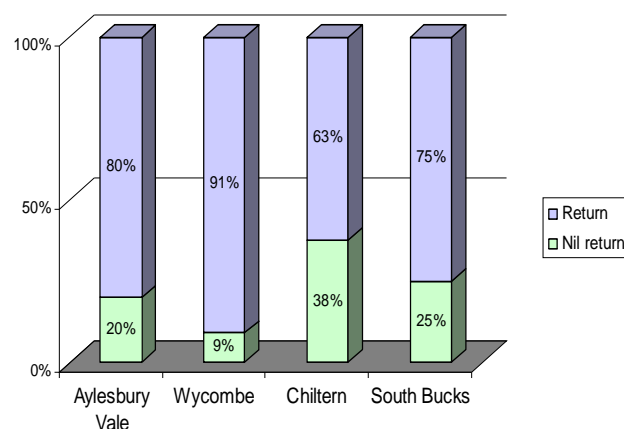
District	Secondary School Returns						Change in Nil>Returns 07/08 to 08/09	Number of Schools 08/09
	06/07		07/08		08/09			
	Returns	Nil>Returns	Returns	Nil>Returns	Returns	Nil>Returns		
Aylesbury Vale	8	3	9	2	8	2	-	10 ¹⁰
Wycombe	10	1	9	2	10	1	-1	11
Chiltern	7	1	5	3	5	3	-	8
South Bucks	3	1	3	1	3	1	-	4
All	28	6	26	8	26	7	-1	33

The following graphs offer a percentage breakdown of 2008/9 nil-returns. From it, it is noted that Aylesbury Vale has the highest proportion of nil-returns (76%) from Primary Schools whereas Chiltern has the highest from Secondary Schools (38%).

2008/9 Primary Returns



2008/9 Secondary Returns



¹⁰ Quarrendon Secondary School has been excluded from report due to mid-academic year closure.

Racist Incidents in Special Schools

This section reports and provides some analysis of racist incidents recorded in the County's Schools for pupils with special needs. The following tables and graphs analyse the incidents reported by Special Schools.

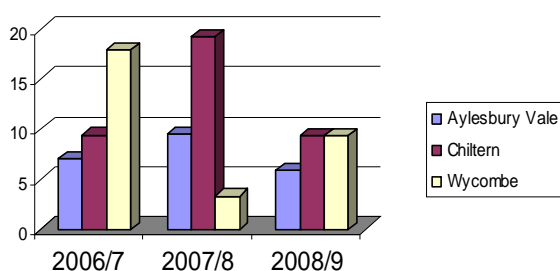
	Aylesbury Vale				Wycombe				Chiltern ¹¹			
	06/07	07/08	08/09	+/-	06/07	07/08	08/09	+/-	06/07	07/08	08/09	+/-
Verbal Abuse	7	9	4	-5	2	21	10	-11	1	1	16	+15
Racist Comment	22	30	20	-10	9	23	7	-16	39	5	17	+12
Physical Assault	0	1	2	+1	5	0	0	-	3	0	0	-
Damage to Property	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
Racist Graffiti	0	0	0	-	0	25	0	-25	23	0	0	-
Discriminatory Behaviour	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	1	+1
Incitement to Others	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
Other	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
TOTAL	29	40	24	-16	16	69	17	-52	66	6	34	+28
% Change				-67%				-306%				+566%
Reported to Police	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-

Pupil Incident Ratio

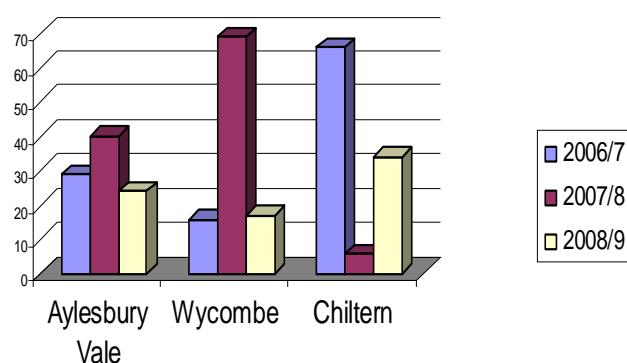
The following table and graphs provide both Pupil Incident Ratio numbers for Special Schools for the 2008/9 academic year along with comparisons of 2007/8 and 2006/7 figures.

District	Number On Roll January 2009	Number of Incidents 2008/9	Pupil Incident Ratio			Difference in PIR
			06/07	07/08	08/09	07/08 – 08/09
Aylesbury Vale	440	26	7.00	9.48	5.91	-3.57
Chiltern	364	34	9.41	19.27	9.34	-9.93
Wycombe	183	17	17.93	3.31	9.29	+5.98
TOTAL:	987	77	11.66	11.97	7.80	-4.17

Pupil Incident Ratio - Special Schools



Yearly Comparisons - Special Schools



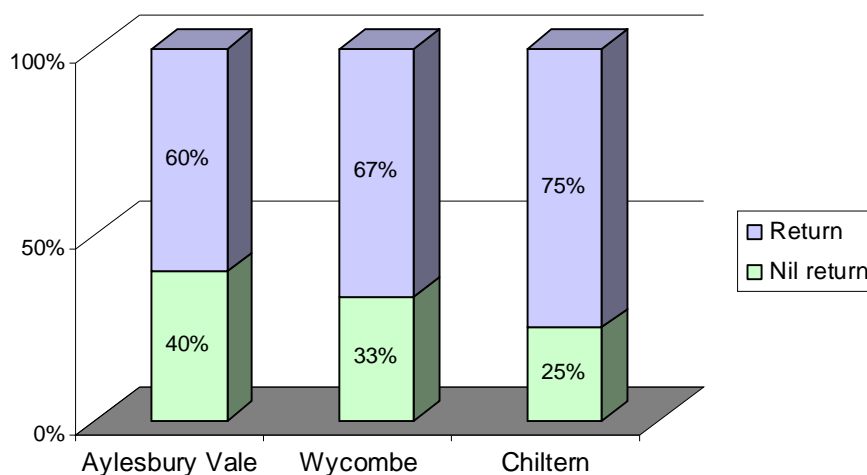
¹¹ There are no Special Schools in South Bucks District.

Nil –Returns

The following figures analyse the number of Special Schools reporting incidents in contrast to those reporting none (“Nil-returns”).

District	2006/07		2007/08		2008/09		Change in Nil>Returns	Total number of Schools
	Returns	Nil Returns	Returns	Nil Returns	Returns	Nil Returns		
Aylesbury Vale	3	2	4	1	3	2	+1	5
Chiltern	2	2	3	1	3	1	0	4
Wycombe	2	1	2	1	2	1	0	3
COUNTY:	7	5	9	3	8	4	+1	12

2008/9 Special Schools Returns



Racist Incidents in Pupil Referral Units

Two incidents were reported at Pupil Referral Units – both were racist comments/ridicule of culture in Wycombe. This was the same number of incidents recorded in 2007/8 and 2006/7.

Conclusion

The academic year 2008/09 saw the last use of the reporting mechanism that has been in place since 2002. Future years will see schools reporting incidents via the ANT system which is an on-line reporting mechanism.

We are therefore delighted to say that once again all schools have sent in their annual returns. Although there is an overall increase in the number of racist incidents a closer analysis indicates that the increase is not county wide but can be pin pointed to two particular districts. The reasons for the increase in these two districts relate to different issues.

In one the developing work of schools to counter racist attitudes has improved community relations which has had the effect of making awareness of such incidents more high profile and this has seen pupils and teachers more confident to report incidents and in the other district there have been a spate of racist incidents in the community which have spilled into the schools in the area.

Dealing with racist incidents involving young children is an issue that needs careful consideration and thoughtful handling. Incidents involving young children do happen and teachers need to respond to them positively and work to prevent their occurrence.

Research shows that young children are aware of physical differences related to ethnicity and they attach values to these differences in line with the judgements prevalent in the home, family, community and society.

Children and young people may use derogatory racist terms and behave in ways which are racist, i.e. refusing to sit next to or refusing to play with other pupils or students because of their ethnicity. Though this does not mean they are racists, however it would be a mistake to disregard or play down such behaviours because “they didn’t mean it” or “she didn’t really understand” or “it’s only a name”.

It may well be that what appears to a victim and others including their parents, to be racist incidents may not have an explicit racist intention. But perpetrators must be faced with taking responsibility for the outcomes of their behaviour. They must be made aware of the hurt they have caused and not be allowed to feel empowered at someone else’s expense.

The school must make it clear that all forms of racism are unacceptable. Racist name-calling and the use of racist labels should be recorded and followed through. Action needs to be positive, but also sensitive. Schools must learn: what to say to affirm and support a child who has been hurt by racist comments and behaviour. Knowing how to communicate to parents and help them support the child and what to say to a child when s/he inflicts this kind of hurt is paramount therefore requiring schools to develop the skills needed to talk to their parents about this.

It is better if the school works strategically on racist incidents with parents and others, rather than just responding to incidents when they occur. All parents need to: be given the chance to be involved in developing the school’s policy and practice re racist incidents. They must know the school’s position on racism and racist incidents and the educational rationale for the school’s stance and understand what the schools procedures in this area are. Knowing how these might affect them and knowing what they do if their child has been subject to racist harassment is really important.

Parents need to be sensitive to changes in the behaviour of their child that might indicate that s/he is being subject to racist harassment and most importantly know what will happen if their child has been involved as a perpetrator.

Schools need to let parents know how the school is working pro-actively through the curriculum and what the school ethos to tackle racism is and they need to have an opportunity to get involved themselves.

If schools talk about racist, and other similar, incidents they will develop the skills to counter racist (and other) teasing and to take appropriate action against abuse, excluding behaviour and taunting and will see the difference between accepting themselves and being proud of what they are and feeling superior to and diminishing others in order to bolster their self-image. Developing empathy is crucial for children and young people.

The Local Authority continues to carry out its statutory duty to support schools on dealing with racism and other forms of discrimination. Training continues to be the main way in which schools receive support. However if called upon the Children's Policy and Equalities Manager along with the METAS team intervene at the request of the school to support both the school, pupils and parents with those incidents that are more serious.

Particular projects that we hope will see more positive outcomes for school communities and the wider community in the long term are two initiatives that began in 2009 /10 The School Linking Network initiative began in Autumn 2009 and a partnership arrangement with Show Racism the Red Card have seen a step up of the work to support the community cohesion agenda. It is anticipated that future evaluation of these two programmes will reap benefits for all involved.



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