



The Minerva Learning Trust

6 July 2020

Dear pupils past and present

Thank you for your letter regarding racism in our society. We welcome it. We are pleased that you feel passionately about tackling this deep-seated issue, which plagues our society.

We agree with the thrust of your letter. It is obvious that the story of non-white members of our community has been vastly underplayed in the curriculum. It is also the case that the images and language of our society has helped to entrench attitudes which are at best misguided and patronising and often plain racist.

As a trust, we think we can and should do more to tackle racism and racial inequality. We want to address the issues within the curriculum where we can, and within school life more generally. These issues cut across the whole age range of our trust. With that in mind, we have set up a group, led by Ms Kite, the headteacher of Bridport Primary School, to see where we can make a difference. The group includes staff from all the schools in the trust. It will address a range of issues:

- You recognise that the curriculum in some subjects is euro-centric. We are somewhat constrained by the national curriculum for history, which guides our work in KS1-3. It focuses on 'Britain in the world' and the KS4 and KS5 curriculum is largely outside our control too. However, we feel we can do more to highlight issues surrounding the slave trade and the legacy of colonisation than we currently do.
- We intend to look at other areas of the curriculum too. Art, music, geography, and literature, among others, should be fertile ground for re-evaluation.
- All our schools have policies in place to protect staff and pupils against discrimination. However, we want to be more proactive in how we tackle racism – whether it is overt and deliberate, or hidden and unintended. We will review our work in this area to see where we can make improvements.

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Bridport Primary School



Burton Bradstock CE Primary School



St Mary's CE Primary School



The Sir John Colfox Academy

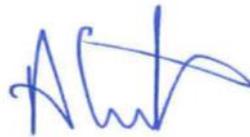
- We recognise that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic staff face additional challenges in their careers, and we will seek to recruit colleagues that reflect the diversity of our society. We will also provide the support BAME colleagues need to be successful in their work.

The current pandemic is obviously having a very significant impact on our ability to draw people together to work on the issues you raise. However, when a semblance of normality returns (hopefully, in the autumn term) we will seek to consult with pupils and students from across the trust to help us test out and implement our plans.

Yours sincerely



Clive Bath
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Minerva Learning Trust



Andrew Lovett
Executive Principal
Minerva Learning Trust



Adam Shelley
Headteacher
The Sir John Colfox Academy