Scottish Parliament Equality & Human Rights Committee

Bullying and harassment of children and young people

Supplementary Submission from CRER

Following CRER’s previous written submission to the Committee in November 2016, our provision of oral evidence and further private meeting with the Committee, we would like to take the opportunity to offer some closing suggestions to summarise points made throughout our engagement with the Committee. We hope that these will be useful to the Committee in developing its conclusions.

Our priority suggestions for the Committee’s consideration are as follows:

- **Recording and monitoring**
  - Development of a standardised, mandatory national approach to recording and monitoring prejudice based bullying (whether as part of Respect for All or through some other mechanism).

- **Effective policy**
  - Provision of clear and practical information on how to tackle prejudice based bullying within schools in a holistic, rights-based way at national level which can inform local level policy development.
  - Ensuring that policy at local and national level provides clear processes which pupils and parents can use to make complaints and assert their rights.
  - Addressing the aspects of the draft Respect for All document and associated work around anti-bullying which are unhelpful in relation to race equality; in particular, clarifying that prejudice based bullying relates to protected characteristics, and that not all bullying happens within the context of relationships.

- **Training and development**
  - Identifying mechanisms to improve the knowledge and skills of teachers in relation to tackling racism and promoting social justice from a rights-based perspective, as opposed to the current focus on ‘celebrating diversity’.

- **Evidence based practice**
  - Highlighting the importance of evaluating current approaches to preventative anti-racist work, with scope for the lessons learned about ‘what works’ to be effectively shared

To discuss this submission, please contact: Carol Young, Senior Policy Officer Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights. carol@crer.org.uk, Tel: 0141 418 6530