

Communities & Public Protection

Community Safety & Wellbeing
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8th October 2018

	For Action	For Information	Meeting
To: Headteachers of all schools		✓	
Copies to: Chair of Governors (please ensure your CofG receives a copy of this letter)		✓	

Dear Colleague

National Hate Crime Awareness Week 13th-20th October

Hate Crime Awareness Week is a national campaign which aims to increase awareness around the reporting of hate incidents. Hate incidents and crimes involve hostility or prejudice towards an individual because of their race, faith, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, and can cause victims, their families and friends great distress. If the victim, a witness or other person believes someone has been targeted in this way, reporting the incident means the victim can access free and confidential support.

The awareness week is an ideal time to refresh staff and pupils understanding of what a hate incident is, how it impacts those who experience or witness an incident and how to respond to it.

Despite more people reporting hate incidents than ever before in West Sussex, evidence from national surveys suggest that incidents are still going unreported. By your school capturing each incident victims can access support and together we can understand the sentiments being expressed within our communities. In this way we can begin to collectively challenge some of the narratives which can lead to hate crimes and incidents.

Hate incidents and crimes can be reported online to the county council's Hate Incident Support Service at www.westsussex.gov.uk/hatecrime, by email at sussexhateincidentreport@victimsupport.org.uk or by phone on 0808 168 9274. Hate crimes can also be reported using the app 'Self Evident.'

Hate incidents and hate crimes are a form of discriminatory behaviour and/or harassment, as well as often constituting crimes in their own right. You will be aware that schools have a legal duty to take action when they become aware of them as stipulated within UK legislation and also the Ofsted inspection framework.

To assist this, guidance is available to schools on how to address the issues created by hate incidents, how to capture incidents and provide support for victims. It can be found by searching for 'Hate crime' on the West Sussex Services for Schools website.

There you will find the termly reporting template as well as a range of digital poster resources developed by West Sussex County Council and Victim Support. We have also selected some of the best practice lesson plan resources from a range of national charities that promote discussion and understanding in relation to equality and diversity. There are also digital resources available in multi-language and easy read formats.

Yours sincerely

GREGORY MERRETT

Principal Community Officer