

Ethnicity & Education

Problems within the school

Ethnicity in Education - Policies

- 1950s-60s – Assimilation
 - 1960s-1970s – Integration
 - 1980s- Multi-culturalism
 - 1990s - Anti-racist
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Ethnocentric Curriculum

- Argument that education in Britain is Anglocentric – David (1993), Ball (1994)
 - History
 - Music
 - Art
- Devaluing of other cultures – Coard (1971)

Racism within schools

- Mirza (1992)
 - Black girls
 - Myth of underachievement
 - Racism of some teachers did not affect self-esteem – girls had positive self-esteem
 - Most teachers were trying to meet girls' needs, although most held racist attitudes
 - Limiting girls' potential

- Sewell (1998)

- Responses of black boys to racism
- Stereotyping by teachers leads to more exclusions

- Four coping strategies:

- Rebellion – small minority but visible
- Conformity – largest group
- Retreatism – small minority
- Innovation – 2nd largest group – pro education, anti school

- Wright (1992)
 - Racism in multi-racial primary schools
 - Observation, interviews, test results
 - Asian children isolated
 - Less attention, assumptions about culture & language
 - Bad behaviour expected of African Caribbean children
 - Harsher discipline
 - Racism from other children

- Coard (1971)

- Education system makes black children feel sub-normal – inferiority complex & self-fulfilling prophecy

- Language

- Black/white dichotomy

- Education & resources ignore black people and culture

- Attitudes in the classroom are reinforced in the playground

Institutional racism

- Built into the operation of schools & colleges
 - Through ethnocentric curriculum & range of subject choices – Troyna & Williams (1986)
 - Failure to deal with racism – Hatcher (1996)
 - Creation of environment which routinely disadvantages students from minority ethnic groups