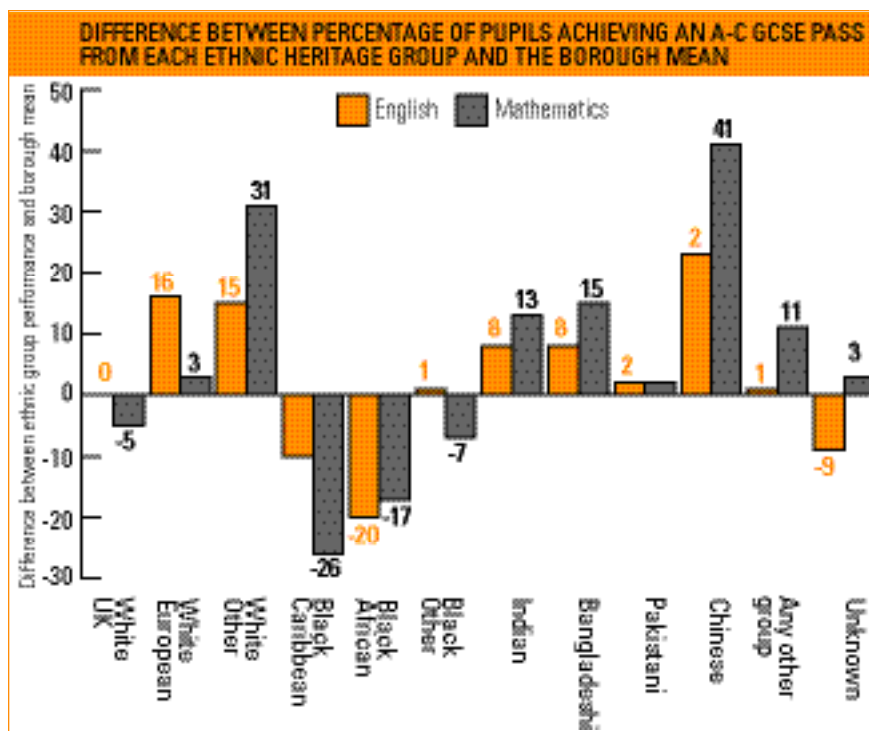


The number of racist incidents are only one way of telling whether our society still has a problem with racism. There are all kinds of figures that tell the same story. For example, there are disproportionately high numbers of Black people in prison; and in schools there is evidence that African-Caribbean boys excluded at six times the rate of their white classmates and that young people from African Caribbean, Pakistani and Bangladeshi families are under-achieving when compared to their classmates.



In many schools, the achievement rates of some groups drop quite drastically when they enter secondary school. Yet in others, children from the same communities excel. Teachers and education specialists have not yet resolved the debate about what makes the difference.

As long as we live in a country where someone can be harassed, attacked and murdered or where young Britons feel condemned to second-class citizenship simply because they are the 'wrong' colour, no-one can claim that Britain is a truly multi-cultural society.

RACISM IN BRITAIN

Well...what do you think?

- Apart from fear of racist attacks, can you think of other ways racism might affect people's lives?
- If a school excludes more pupils from one ethnic group than another, does this mean that the teachers are treating them less fairly - or could there be other reasons?
- If pupils from a particular ethnic group are doing worse than another, who should take the blame – the teachers or the pupils themselves?
- What do you think makes the difference in a school when it comes to pupils' achievements – the pupils, the teachers or the attitudes of the parents?
- If a group is over-represented in prison, does this mean they prefer a life of crime – or does it reflect the fact that their life choices are limited (e.g. by a lack of education or jobs)?