

Black Pupils' Achievement Programme

July 06

The secondary BPAP is a national programme currently involving 84 schools in 20 LAs focusing on raising the attainment of Black Caribbean, Black African and Mixed Black Heritage pupils. The project aims to ensure attainment for a group of underperforming pupils by focusing on four areas of school improvement :

- leadership and management
- use of data
- teaching and learning
- partnerships with parents/carers and community

The programme requires that :

- colleagues from EMA and SNS are identified to work together in guiding and supporting the schools' projects
- schools identify programme leaders from their senior management
- data is used to identify the student groups and rigorous tracking and monitoring follows
- action plans are drawn up by each school
- progress is reported regularly and local network meetings take place

The 4 Islington schools taking part in this programme and key members of SM are:

Highbury Grove - Mervyn Hinds
Holloway - Maggie Montgomery
Islington Arts and Media – Lynda Brennan
Islington Green – Alice Clay

(NB It is hoped to involve a second member of staff in each school in order to share the responsibility of the programme and to help embed good practice using EMA and SNS techniques and materials.)

The plan of action in each school varies e.g. :

- target groups span KS3 and KS4 and are not aimed at any specific level of black pupil achievement
- activities take place during the school day and sometimes after school and on Saturdays
- some school planning has drawn on external agencies to engage, guide and inspire pupils with visiting poets/writers and mentors
- some projects involve the families of black pupils to a greater or lesser extent
- some projects have set up individual mentoring programmes for the students using school staff/external consultants
- each school has a fixed amount of grant to use, but some have combined this money with other funds

Sara McLaughlin and Judy Davies are the designated EMA and SNS consultants working with Islington BPAP schools :

- ~ *We hope that the good practice generated via this project will eventually be available to all schools and to many more groups of pupils.*
- ~ *At the heart of the programme is the notion that schools know the needs of their pupils groups, make appropriate provision for their teaching and learning and keep a close eye on the progress of these pupils*
- ~ *The programme gives us, and school staff, an opportunity to work together and to reinforce areas of best practice in various strands of school improvement – particularly around Inclusion, Race Equality and the use of Strategy materials.*