

Our commitment to anti-racism

The Diocese of Chichester is committed to being actively anti-racist.

Sadly, racism still exists. As a diocese we have a crucial role to play in combating racism in our churches, schools, other institutions and communities.

The message in the Bible is clear and unambiguous – we are all one in Christ. It could not have been put more clearly than this: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3.28)

Our churches and schools:

A) will be biblically and theologically rooted while challenging the injustices of structural racism, combating racist behaviours and promoting racial justice and equity;

B) will be proactive and vigilant in challenging racism and shaping anti-racist behaviours;

C) will not deny, obscure or downplay the painful lived reality of racism experienced by many;

D) will acknowledge the huge transformative work that needs to be done as we build and strengthen our communities;

E) will expect those who work within the Diocese of Chichester to be welcoming to people of minority ethnic backgrounds;

F) will celebrate and give thanks for the diversity in God’s creation and strive for greater inclusivity in all social spheres at all levels so that the participation of all – people of diverse cultures and backgrounds – can be encouraged, secured, celebrated and valued.

We know we have to do much more to transform the Church and wider society to be more all-embracing in accordance with God’s will. We pledge to address the systemic issues identified and highlighted by the Anti-Racism Taskforce report ‘From Lament to Action’ as best we can through a rigorous programme of action. We endeavour to do our best for changing attitudes and repudiating racism and the so-called otherness of others and replacing it with our common humanity. Love of God and for our neighbour will enable us to persevere in pursuit of a positive change for the emergence of a social order free from the scourge of racism. Race should fade into insignificance when we build God’s kingdom. It is built on all-embracing love. Let us join hands to build it.