Helping Dual Heritage Children Reach Their Potential: Possible Difficulties and Defences Against Them.

Preliminary Report to Race Equality Sandwell

Dr. Lindsey Cameron
University of Kent, Canterbury
Kent
## Contents

2  Contents page

3  Background of research project

6  Aims of research project

7  Method

8  Measures

14 Results

21 Plan for next stage of research

22 Appendix A: Questionnaire

33 Appendix B: Schedule for Interview

40 Transcriptions of Interviews
Background of Research Project

Why is it important to examine problems facing dual heritage adolescents?

- **Number of dual heritage children in Sandwell**: according to the Census 2001 there were 4,186 dual heritage people aged between 0-19 years old. This represented 5.5% of the 0-19 year old population and is the third largest ‘ethnic group’ in Sandwell.

- There is some evidence that Dual Heritage children may have more problems in adolescence than mono-racial children. Research suggests that Dual Heritage children can have problems with gender confusion, self-hatred, alcohol and other drug abuse, suicide, delinquency, alienation and difficulties in developing a racial identity (Benson, 1981; Banks, 1992).

- Dual heritage children are two-and-a-half time more likely than other children to enter care (Bebbington & Miles, 1989).

- On a more encouraging note, there is also evidence that dual heritage children can develop a positive self-concept. Tizard & Phoenix (1993) studied dual heritage children with one African-American parent and one European-American parent, found that these dual heritage children had high self-esteem and positive identities.

Why might Dual Heritage children face more difficulties in adolescence than mono-racial children?

**Dual heritage children may experience more discrimination than mono-racial adolescents**

Perceived discrimination is one of the most important psychological stressors for ethnic minority groups. It decreases psychological well-being and can lead to low self-esteem in adolescents. Research has also shown that perceived discrimination can lead to lower academic attainment, a decline in mental health and problem behaviours such as getting into fights.

Dual heritage children may experience a higher level of discrimination and rejection than their mono-racial counterparts. They may be rejected and discriminated against by the two groups making up their ‘dual heritage’ leading to feelings of isolation and rejection. Dual heritage adolescents may also be aware of stereotypes and negative attitudes of
people who are ‘dual heritage’ held by members of other ethnic groups. Dual heritage adolescents could internalize these negative stereotypes, leading to negative self-concepts.

**Dual Heritage children might face more problems than mono-racial children during the development of their ethnic identity.**

- **Development of identity in adolescents:** The struggle to achieve identity during adolescence is expected, regardless of ethnicity. In adolescence teenagers begin to develop a sense of who they are: they may ask themselves questions about their personal identity: the kind of person they are and want to be. They also begin to explore their social identity, including ethnic group membership. Teenagers develop a deeper understanding of ethnic group membership. The ethnic group you and others belong to is more than just a skin colour: teenagers begin to understand the social ramifications of belonging to one ethnic group and not another. These include status, discrimination, values and aspirations.

- **Why is development of ethnic identity important?** Many social scientists have shown that ethnic identity is very important in the development of a positive self-concept. Adolescents with strong ethnic identities have more positive self-esteem, feel a greater sense of belonging, greater self-worth, are more adjusted, exhibit less problematic delinquent behaviours, higher academic achievement and better mental health. Research has also shown that in adolescents, the negative effect of perceived discrimination can be reduced through high identification with their ethnic group.

- **Development of ethnic identity in Dual Heritage children:** For Dual Heritage children, the development of ethnic identity may be more complex than for mono-racial adolescents. Firstly Dual Heritage adolescents must choose which ethnic identity ‘label’ to adopt: the ethnic identity of either of their parents, or the ‘dual heritage’ ethnic group. Adolescents may feel pressured by peers and teachers to choose one ethnic group only (i.e. their mothers or fathers) (Schwartz, 1998). This rejection of one parents’ heritage could cause them to feel guilt, which has negative effects on their self-concept. Alternatively, children may adopt the ‘Dual Heritage’ identity. However, some sociologists argue that as a distinct ethnic group, the ‘dual heritage’ ethnic group is not well-established with little sense of community, therefore it may be less likely identification with this group will lead to positive outcomes.

- **If Dual Heritage adolescents do have difficulties developing an ethnic identity, what are the consequences of this?** Development of a strong ethnic identity is associated with a number of positive outcomes for children of all ethnic groups. If ethnic identity is weak, or adolescents experience conflicts between different aspects of their ethnic identities (as Dual heritage children may do) this can lead to low self-esteem, low educational attainment, problematic behaviours
and low feelings of self-worth. Negative effects of perceived discrimination as also more likely.

- **How can these problems be avoided in Dual heritage children?** One factor which is associated with strong ethnic identification and high self-esteem is parental and family support. These factors are thought to help teenagers to develop positive ethnic identities and gain from the benefits of having this strong identity. Dual heritage children with strong family support have been found to have higher self esteem.

- **Summary:** Dual heritage children may find adolescence a more difficult time than their mono-racial counterparts due to their feelings that they have been discriminated against because of their race and that in larger society their ethnic group is discriminated against. They may also have problems in developing a strong ethnic identity. Low ethnic identification and perceived discrimination are related to a number of factors including low self-esteem, delinquent behaviours and low academic achievement. Some of these negative effects can be avoided if there is strong parental and family support.

- **Implications of research:** The implications of this research include determining areas of Dual heritage children’s lives in which they need additional support in order to avoid the problems outlined above including delinquent behaviours and low self-esteem. The information from this research will be interesting to parents, counsellors, educational staff and other parties interested in furthering the welfare of minority groups who may need to adjust their approach to Dual heritage children in order to meet their needs adequately. Through identifying any particular needs Dual Heritage adolescents have, it is hoped that this will increase our ability to allow them to reach their full potential.
Aims of Research Project

The aim of the current research is to examine whether or not Dual Heritage adolescents, and children from other ethnic groups in the Sandwell area face any particular problems. This will allow communities to determine whether there are any particular area in which Dual Heritage adolescents, and adolescents from other ethnic groups need greater support. The aim of the study is to create a ‘snapshot’ of young minority ethnic people’s lives: what problems (if any) do they face? Do they believe they have experienced racism in school and outside of school? Do they have positive self-esteem? Are they achieving academically? Are they exhibiting delinquent behaviours? Are they receiving parental support? Does parental support help Dual Heritage adolescent children avoid the problems associated with experience of racism and prejudice. What are the positive aspects of being dual heritage?
Method

Participants: These were young people (Year 10) at X school. This school is very diverse and children came from a range of ethnic backgrounds, including dual heritage.

In this research project there were two branches of research:

1. Questionnaires completed by the young people.
2. Individual interviews.

1. **Questionnaires:**

These were completed by the young people at X school in a large school hall. Children completed the questionnaire (See Appendix A) individually, but they were encouraged to ask the researchers and teachers for assistance if they were unsure of any of the questions.

Ethnicity: Young people were first asked to indicate the ethnicity of their mother and their father. From this information the child’s ethnic group was derived. The questionnaires consisted of well-established psychological
measures that are especially designed for measuring the following aspects in young people:

a) Ethnic identification

b) Academic ability and aspirations

c) Experience of racial discrimination

d) Parental support

e) Engagement in problem behaviours

f) Self-esteem

a) Ethnic identification: This was measured using the ‘Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure’ which is designed to measure strength of ethnic identification in diverse ethnic groups. The measure consisted of 20 statements relating to ethnic identification e.g. ‘I have a lot of pride in my ethnic group and its accomplishments.’ These 20 statements were concerned with three aspects of ethnic identification: ‘Affirmation and Belonging’, ‘Ethnic identity achievement’ and ‘Ethnic behaviours’. Young people were asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed with the statements (1 = strongly disagree, 2 = somewhat disagree, 3 = somewhat agree, 4 = strongly agree).
Children’s score for ‘Affirmation and Belonging’ was calculated by summing the individual scores for each of the statements relating to ‘Affirmation and Belonging’ and obtaining the mean. The same procedure was followed in order to calculate ‘Ethnic identity achievement’ and ‘Ethnic behaviours’. The ‘Overall ethnic identity’ score is the average of all three of the subscales. For all ethnic identity measures, higher scores indicated stronger ethnic identification. The maximum scores is 4 and the minimum score is 1.

One further aspect of ethnic identification was measured, namely ‘Other group orientation’. For this aspect of ethnic identification young people were asked to indicate how much they agree with statements relating to their interaction with and attitudes towards other ethnic groups e.g. ‘I am involved in activities with people from other groups.’ As in the above measures, the ‘Other-group orientation’ score was obtained by summing together scores for those items and calculating the mean. A higher score indicates more positive out-group orientation.

To summarise there are five indicators of ethnic identification:

1. Affirmation and Belonging
2. Ethnic identity achievement
3. Ethnic behaviours

4. Overall ethnic identification

5. Out-group orientation

b) Academic ability and aspirations: This was a measure of young people’s own perceptions of their academic ability and their academic self-confidence. Young people were given a series of questions (questions 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8 in the questionnaire) in which they were asked to compare themselves to their friends, other pupils and other students in terms of their academic ability e.g. ‘Think of the students in your form class. Do you think you can do school work better than, the same as or poorer than the students in your form class?’ Possible responses were: ‘better than all of them’, ‘better than most of them’, ‘the same as most of them’, ‘poorer than most of them’ and ‘poorer than all of them’. The average response on these questions was obtained leading to one score for perception of academic ability, ranging from 1 to 5 so that higher scores indicate better perceived academic ability.

Children were also asked to indicate if they thought they would be capable of attending university and responded either ‘yes’ or ‘no’.
c) **Experience of racial discrimination**: Experience of racial discrimination at the hands of children’s peers, and their teachers was measured. Children were asked how frequently they have experienced discrimination at the hands of peers (e.g. ‘How often have you got into arguments or fights because of your ethnic group?’) and at the hands of their teachers / school (e.g. ‘How often do you think your teachers mark your work more harshly because of your ethnic group?’). Possible responses were: ‘never’ (1), ‘a couple of times a year’ (2), ‘a couple of times a month’ (3), ‘a couple of times a week’ (4) and ‘everyday’ (5). Peer and teacher/school discrimination scores were obtained by calculating the average score on these items. This led to a measure of peer discrimination and teacher discrimination that ranged form 1 to 5 with higher scores indicating more frequent racial discrimination.

d) **Parental support**: Children’s relationship with their parents and their perceived support from them was measured by giving children a series of statements relating to behaviours that are indicative of good or bad relationship with parents e.g. being able to talk about problems, receiving help from parent. Children were presented with 8 statements, four related to their relationship with their mother and four with their father e.g. ‘When
there is something troubling me I can always discuss it with my father.’

Children responded: strongly disagree (1), somewhat disagree (2), neutral
(3), somewhat agree (4), strongly agree (5). The average score for maternal,
paternal and parental (the average of maternal and paternal scores) was
obtained. These scores range from 1 to 5 with higher scores indicating
stronger parental support.

e) Engagement in problem behaviours: Young people were asked to indicate
whether they had or had not engaged in a series of problem behaviours e.g.
shoplifted, lied to their parents about where they are, cheated on exams.
Higher scores indicated they had engaged in problematic behaviours.

f) Self-esteem: This was measured using the Rosenberg self-esteem scale.
Young people were asked to indicate how much they agree with 10
statements relating to their self-esteem e.g. ‘I feel that I have a number of
good qualities.’ They could respond ‘strongly disagree’ (1), ‘somewhat
disagree’ (2), ‘somewhat agree’ (3) and ‘strongly agree’ (4). The average
score on these 10 statements was calculated and is an indication of self-
esteeem. The scores range from 1 to 4 with higher scores indicating higher
self-esteem.
Individual interviews: Children were interviewed individually by a researcher. A list of possible questions for the interview, which was used as a guide for the researchers, are presented in Appendix B.

Transcriptions of the interviews are presented in Appendix C. Comments made by the participant are annotated by ‘P’ and comments made by the researchers are annotated ‘R’.
Results

Ethnic identification: Affirmation & belonging

Ethnic identification: Ethnic identity achievement
Ethnic identification: Ethnic behaviours

- White: 2.5
- Asian: 3.0
- Black: 3.0
- Dual heritage: 2.5

Ethnic identification: Other-group orientation

- White: 3.6
- Asian: 3.5
- Black: 3.3
- Dual heritage: 3.3
Overall ethnic identification

![Bar chart showing overall ethnic identification for different ethnic groups: white, Asian, black, dual heritage. The bars indicate varying levels of identification with the highest for Asian and the lowest for dual heritage.]

Perceived academic ability depending on ethnic group

![Bar chart showing perceived academic ability for different ethnic groups: white, Asian, black, dual heritage. The bars indicate varying levels of academic ability with the highest for Asian and the lowest for white.]

Academic ability

ethnic group
Experience of discrimination from peers

Experience of discrimination at school / teachers
Parental support: Mother

Parental support: Father
Parental support: Overall

Engagement in problem behaviours
Self-esteem

Belief in ability to attend university
Plan for next stage of research

1. Questionnaire research: Further analyses will be conducted on the questionnaire data in order to examine the relationship between the measures. This will allow us to examine whether dual heritage children, and children from other ethnic groups, have any specific needs compared with children from other ethnic groups.

2. Interviews: The interviews will be analysed more carefully and themes or issues concerning dual heritage young people will be identified.
Appendix A: Questionnaire

Participant number:
Date of birth:
Gender: male / female
Class:

Information about the questionnaire

In this country, people come from a lot of different cultures and there are many different words to describe the different backgrounds or ethnic groups that people come from. Some examples of the names of ethnic groups are white, black, Asian, Asian British, White Black African, White Black Caribbean. Every person is born into an ethnic group, or sometimes two groups, but people differ on how important their ethnicity is to them, how they feel about it, and how much their behaviour is affected by it. These questions are about your ethnicity or your ethnic group and how you feel about it or react to it.

We would really appreciate it if you could take the time to fill this in.

All your answers are confidential – no one will find out these are your answers (not your teachers, parents, school) so try and just write what ever you think.

This is NOT A TEST – there are no right or wrong answers so don’t worry about getting things wrong – just say what ever you think.

Any questions? Are you happy to complete this?
A. Please fill in:

In terms of ethnic group, I consider myself to be_____________________.

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15. I don’t try to become friends with people from other ethnic groups.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. I take part in the traditions of the ethnic group I belong to e.g. special food, music, or customs.</td>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>Somewhat disagree</td>
<td>Somewhat agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. I take part in activities with people from other ethnic groups. and traditions of the ethnic group I belong to.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. My groups of friends mostly include people from the same ethnic group as me.</td>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>Somewhat disagree</td>
<td>Somewhat agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. My ethnic group is important to me.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I like meeting and getting to know people from ethnic groups within my group.</td>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>Somewhat disagree</td>
<td>Somewhat agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. I think a lot about what it means to belong to my ethnic group. I enjoy being around people from ethnic groups other than my own.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. I feel good about belonging to my ethnic group.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. I sometimes feel it would be better if people from different ethnic groups didn’t try to mix together.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. I don’t really think my ethnicity has affected how I live my life.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. I often spend time with people from ethnic groups other than my own.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. I really have not spent much time trying to learn more about the traditions and history of the ethnic group I belong to.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. I feel like I really belong to my ethnic group.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. My ethnic group membership affects how I relate to people from my own and other ethnic groups.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. I have often talked to other people about my ethnic group to find out more about my ethnic group.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. I have a lot of pride in being a member of the ethnic group I belong to and what it has achieved.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use the numbers next to each of these items to indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement. Circle the answer that matches up with what you think.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>I often wish I was not a member of my ethnic group.</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Disagree a little</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Agree somewhat</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In general, I am glad to be a member of my ethnic group.</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Disagree a little</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Agree somewhat</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall, I often feel that it is not good to be a member of my ethnic group.</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Disagree a little</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Agree somewhat</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>I feel good about the ethnic group I belong to.</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>Disagree a little</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Agree somewhat</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. For the next question we would like you to select which of these ethnicities you belong to. First of all you look at the ethnic groups in bold and select the one that matches up with you. Then have a look at the ethnicities underneath that one: tick the one that matches up with you. For example if I was Asian British I would first look at the Asian British column and then select the ethnicity that matches up with me (in this case Pakistani).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Asian or Asian British</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White British</td>
<td>White and Black Caribbean</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Irish</td>
<td>White and Black African</td>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other white background</td>
<td>White and Asian</td>
<td>Bangladeshi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other mixed background</td>
<td>Other Asian background</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please tick the ethnicity for the following question:

**My ethnicity is……**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Asian or Asian British</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White British</td>
<td>White and Black Caribbean</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Irish</td>
<td>White and Black African</td>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other white background</td>
<td>White and Asian</td>
<td>Bangladeshi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other mixed background</td>
<td>Other Asian background</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**My father’s ethnicity is……**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Asian or Asian British</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White British</td>
<td>White and Black Caribbean</td>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Irish</td>
<td>White and Black African</td>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other white background</td>
<td>White and Asian</td>
<td>Bangladeshi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other mixed background</td>
<td>Other Asian background</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**My mother’s ethnicity is…..**
C. Some people think they are treated differently because of the ethnic group they belong to. Other people think they are treated the same as everyone else. We are interested in whether you think your peers and your teachers at school treat you differently because of your ethnic group, or if they treat you the same as everyone else. Use the scales next to each of the questions to indicate the frequency that the following things have happened to you. Please circle the number that matches up with what you think.

The ethnic group I feel I belong to:__________________________________________

How often do you think you have…..

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. How often do you think you have gotten into fights because of your ethnic group?</th>
<th>never</th>
<th>A couple of times a year</th>
<th>A couple of times a month</th>
<th>A couple of times each week</th>
<th>Everyday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. How often do you think people have chosen not to hang out with you because of your ethnic group?</th>
<th>never</th>
<th>A couple of times a year</th>
<th>A couple of times a month</th>
<th>A couple of times each week</th>
<th>Everyday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. How often do you think you have not been picked for teams or activities because of your ethnic group?</th>
<th>never</th>
<th>A couple of times a year</th>
<th>A couple of times a month</th>
<th>A couple of times each week</th>
<th>Everyday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. Do you think teachers ever call on you less because of your ethnic group?</th>
<th>never</th>
<th>A couple of times a year</th>
<th>A couple of times a month</th>
<th>A couple of times each week</th>
<th>Everyday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5. Do you think teachers ever mark your work more harshly because of your ethnic group?</th>
<th>never</th>
<th>A couple of times a year</th>
<th>A couple of times a month</th>
<th>A couple of times each week</th>
<th>Everyday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. How often do you think you have been disciplined more harshly because of your ethnic group?</th>
<th>never</th>
<th>A couple of times a year</th>
<th>A couple of times a month</th>
<th>A couple of times each week</th>
<th>Everyday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. How often do you think you have been discouraged from taking part in school activities because of your ethnic group?

8. How often do you think teachers think you are less smart because of your ethnic group?
D. Some people get along really well with their parents. They feel they can discuss things with their parents and talk about their problems. Other people don’t get on so well with their parents. We would like to know how you think you and your parents get along.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>My mother and I understand each other.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>When something is troubling me I can always discuss it with my mother.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>My mother will always help me in any way she can.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>My mother is good at listening to any problems I have.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>When something is troubling me I can always discuss it with my father.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>My father and I understand each other.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>My father will always help me in any way he can.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>My father is good at listening to any problems I have.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
E. We are interested in whether you have ever engaged in problem behaviours or behaviour that might get you into trouble. Remember all your answers in this questionnaire are anonymous. That means no one will find out your answers. Please answer as honestly as you can. Please indicate whether you have ever engaged in the following behaviours. To answer, circle or tick the relevant number, ‘0’ or ‘1’:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Done it at least once</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Damaged property for fun</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Shoplifted</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Skipped classes</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Gotten involved in a gang fight</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Been sent to the headteachers office</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Lied to parents about whereabouts</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Done risky things for a thrill</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Stole or tried to steal a car or motorcycle</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Hit someone because of what they said or did</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Brought alcohol or drugs to school</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Cheated on exams</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
F. The following questions are all about how you feel about yourself as a person. How do you see yourself? Please answer these questions by circling your answer ‘1’, ‘2’, ‘3’ or ‘4’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Strangly disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strangly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I feel that I am a person of worth, at least on an equal plane with others.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>I feel that I have a number of good qualities.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>All in all I am inclined to feel that I am a failure.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>I am able to do things as well as most people.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>I feel I do not have much to be proud of.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>I take a positive attitude toward myself.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>On the whole I am satisfied with myself.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>I wish I could have more respect for myself.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>I certainly feel useless at times.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>At times I think I am no good at all.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
G. We would now like to ask you some questions about how you think you get on at school. Please answer the questions as honestly as you can on the scale of 1 to 5.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>better than all of them</th>
<th>better than most of them</th>
<th>the same as most of them</th>
<th>poorer than most of them</th>
<th>poorer than all of them</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Think about your friends. Do you think you can do school work better, the same or poorer than your friends?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Think of the other students in your form class. Do you think you can do school work better, the same or poorer than the students in your form class?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>When you get your GCSEs, do you think you will be one of the best students, same as most or below most of the students?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Do you think you could get your GCSEs?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>If you went to University, do you think you would be one of the best students, same as most or below most of the students?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>If you want to be a doctor or a teacher, you need to go to university. Do you think you could do that?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Forget how your teachers mark your work. How good do you think your own work is?</td>
<td>v. good</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>average</td>
<td>Below average</td>
<td>v. poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>How good a student do you think you can be at this school?</td>
<td>v. good</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>average</td>
<td>Below average</td>
<td>v. poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you very much for completing this questionnaire!
Appendix B: Schedule for Interview

Begin by talking about the questionnaire they completed.

Talk about how it was asking questions about ethnicity and people’s ethnic backgrounds. But what you want to do now is really ask them for their own personal opinion about things to do with ethnic identity, and also more generally just ask them about what their life is like as teenagers right now.

So it’s not just about their ethnic groups but also about what their life is like. We are trying to get a better idea of some of the problems facing teenagers today and also what are the good things in your life right now? A lot of the time people don’t really begin to think about their ethnic group until they are teenagers, and then they begin to think about it a bit more – think about what it means to them, how it affects their life, how it makes them who they are. People begin to think about their nationalities as well.
**Ethnic identity:**

Start off by talking about their ethnic group:

1. What is your ethnic group?
2. What is their parents’ ethnic group?
3. Do you tend to use dual heritage label e.g. mixed race? Why / why not?
4. A lot of teenagers really start to think about where they come from and what it means to belong to an ethnic group. Do you ever think about things like that?
5. Is their ethnic group important to them?
6. Do they ever feel confused about the ethnic group they belong to?
7. Do they feel more one ethnic group or another?
8. Do you ever wish you were just one ethnicity?
**Development of identity:**

When people become teenagers they do sometimes start to explore their ethnic identity and think about where they come from: Can you think back to your childhood when you were really little, and maybe since you got to secondary school

9. Have they ever thought of themselves as being mixed race / dual heritage / when did they start to think of themselves in that way?

10. Have you changed at all in how you perceive yourself in terms of your ethnic group? Has this changed since you were a little child?

11. Did being X ever cause you any problems when you were little?
Changing identities:

12. Has something ever happened to them that makes their ethnic group more important to them, or made them confused about their ethnic group?

13. What are the good things about belonging to their ethnic group (whether that's a dual heritage, mono-racial, national – whatever they say)?

14. Do you think that you have ever had to choose between different identities? Has there ever been a time when you had to choose whether or not you were X or Y? What influenced that choice e.g. family, social status, friends.

15. What benefits have there been of choosing that identity? Why not choose the other one?

16. How did you feel about having to choose identities in that way? (e.g. guilty about rejecting one of parents ethnic groups)

17. Do you think it’s OK to have more than one ethnic identity, or should you choose just one?
Support from family and school:

18. What do your family think about their ethnic group and your ethnic group? E.g. what do your family think about you choosing to be X? Do they know about it?
19. Is there anything your family could do to make things better for you?
20. What about school: is there anything the school could do to make things better for you?

Problems caused by ethnic identity now and in the future:

21. Do you think there are any particular problems that have affected you because of your ethnic group?
22. Have you ever experienced any kind of prejudice because of the ethnic group you belong to?
23. Do you have a sense of belonging / security to any ethnic group?
24. Do you think in the future you will have any problems because of your ethnic group? E.g. in getting a job, getting married, having kids.
25. Do you think people treat you differently because of your ethnic group or do they just treat you the same?
**Being British/English and X:**

26. Is it easy to be both British and X?

27. How do you manage being both British and X?

28. Do you think it’s important to do things associated with X e.g. going to Mosque, temple, things to do with your religion, wearing traditional clothes?

**Contact:**

29. When you think about your friends, do you think you fit in with them quite well?

30. Who are your friends, who do you tend to hang around with, would you say your friends are from lots of different ethnic groups, or just one, or what?
Thoughts on our research

31. What do you think about this survey we are doing and the questions we are asking you?

32. Do you think these are important things to talk about and to think about? Why?

33. Do you think people listen to your ideas on things like this?

34. Do you ever feel like you are being ignored by society?
Appendix C: Transcriptions of Interviews

Participant 1

R: We’re going to have a chat about the issues that were included in the questionnaire that you filled in yesterday. I have to tell you that it is anonymous. But it’s a good opportunity for you to express how you feel and who you are because what we are going to say here is going to be heard by some important people, some policy makers, some politicians, so if you feel you have some problems or opinions about certain issues feel free to mention them.
R: What do you think the questionnaire was about?
P: Just questions.
R: It was questions about ethnicity and race. Have you heard these words before? Are you familiar with terms like that?
P: Yeah
R: So could you tell me which ethnic group you belong to?
P: Afro Caribbean
R: And what’s your mum and dad?
P: My mums Jamaican and my dads mixed race. Half African and half white.
R: OK. So do you feel you belong to both ethnic groups?
P: Yeah
R: So you feel you are white and African as well?
P: Yeah
R: You identify with both groups. So is your ethnicity important for you?
P: Yeah
R: In which way?
P: I’m not sure it’s just important to me.
R: So basically you are mixed race?
P: No no quarter.
R: So you don’t really feel mixed race?
P: No mostly black
R: So do you ever feel confused about that?
P: No
R: When people reach adolescence when they become teenagers they start thinking more about race and ethnicity. When did you start thinking about the ethnic group you belong to?
P: Probably since I was 5
R: Do you think more about it now?
P: Yeah yeah
R: Do you think that being a black British person can cause you some problems?
P: No no
R: So if you imagine yourself in the future do you think you might have some difficulties in getting a job, having a family, having kids?
P: No
R: OK so can you think of some positive things that come out form being a black British person? Why is it nice?
P: It’s like any race
R: How are things at school?
P: They’re alright
R: Do you think there’s something that the school can do to make it easier for you do you think?
P: It’s already easy
R: I’ve heard from some kids hear that it would be useful to teach black African history, they say this will make students more familiar with history maybe it would improve things a bit. What do you think about that?
P: I really couldn’t improve nothing else in this school
R: How about your family do think there’s anything your family could do something to make things easier for you?
P: No
R: How about your friends? Where do your friends come from?
P: The Caribbean, Asian that’s it really. Caribbean and Asian.
R: And how come you are friends with people like that? Do you feel you have similarities?
P: No they’re just friends.

Participant 2

R: I’ve just got a few questions that are kind of like the questionnaire that I gave you this morning. Well what did you think of it?
P: Just it wasn’t hard, just simple questions
R: You understood the questions yeah? Did you think it was a good thing to do? Did it make you think about anything you hadn’t thought about before?
P: Well I’m not a religious person
R: Are you not?
P: So I didn’t... just answered them I suppose
R: Well I have a few questions to ask you. The whole point of these questions is that we just want to get a better idea really of what it’s like being a teenager for you guys. So it’s just like your chance to talk about anything you have to deal with or anything you want to let people know about. And the information you tell us gets passed on to policy makers and other groups so it’s your chance to represent. So what I am going to ask you about first of all is, well you’ll notice the questions we asked you about earlier was all about your ethnic group. So what was the ethnic group you wrote down?
P: Half white, half Asian.

R: So your mum...
P: My mums half Asian, half white and my dad fully white
R: So do you describe yourself as half white and half Asian or do you say you’re Asian or what do you tend to say?
P: Half white and half Asian
R: So both of those things are important to you or what do you think?
P: It’s just my ethnicity.
R: Yeah?
P: It’s just me. And I’m not going to go with these people because they’re white and these people because they’re Asian.
R: So what are your friends like?
P: Well some are Sikhs. So...some Muslim some white some different ethnicity
R: So do you think for you religion so the more important thing, so do you think in terms of Asian, Indian or do you think in terms of Sikh or Muslim...
P: Think in terms of whom the person is not their ethnicity
R: You don’t think about that at all?
P: No
R: So my next question is a lot of teenagers really start to think about where they come and from and what it means to belong to an ethnic group so do you ever think about that you know what it means to be Asian
P: No not really
R: What about your mum, she’s half Asian isn’t she
P: But she’s not religious either
R: Is she not?
P: My granddad does. He was Muslim.
R: So religion isn’t really important to you. What about other parts of Asian culture like music or...
P: I don’t listen Asian music I don’t like it its just bad
R: What music are you into then?
P: I don’t really listen to that much music
R: So you’ve never had a time where you’ve had to think about like I’m Asian or I’m white or this is what I’m going to be I’m half Asian and half white, you’ve never had a time where you thought I really have to think about this?
P: No
R: It’s never been an issue for you...
P: My whole...I’ve got black people, Asian and white in my family so it just doesn’t really affect me I suppose
R: You mean like cousins or..
P: Yeah my aunties black so my two cousins are half black and half white I’ve got white cousins, brown cousins, different
R: So do you think that because of that you’re quite open-minded about stuff like that?
P: Yeah because my family is spread out
R: So do you ever wish that you were just Asian or just white or..
P: No
R: You’re quite happy the way you are
P: Yeah
R: OK. Well what about other children, because I’ve spoken to other children not here but in other schools, if one of their parents is Asian and the others white they sometimes find it really difficult
P: Well my parents are actually split up so...
R: Why do you think it would be harder if they were still together?
P: I don’t know. I don’t think it was because one was Asian and one was white because my dad now goes out with an Asian person and my dad goes out with a white person.
R: Some kids I speak to like younger ones, younger than you, can have problems with one parent being Asian and one being white, I just wondered because you don’t have any problems with that do you and I just wondered why might these kids find it hard.

P: It might be because some Muslims are strict and some Sikhs are really strict and some might have to be forced to do different stuff they might not want to do

R: Yeah oh is see.

R: So what about your parents are they quite strict?

P: Not as in religious way. School

R: Are they quite keen on you doing your school work?

P: Yeah

R: What are they quite keen on you doing your school work?

P: Yeah keeping good at school

P: They just want me to get a good job. I actually want to be a solicitor.

R: Yeah. That’s quite a difficult job.

P: Yeah.

R: That’s years at university.

P: Mhm.

R: Do you want to do it or...

P: Solicitor or a scientist.

P: I don’t want to be bored; I don’t want a boring job

R: So you want to do experiments and stuff.

P: Something fun and just not paperwork.

R: Yeah it does get a bit boring after a while.

R: So when you were little do you think you had problems with being Asian and white, or was it all fine, just the way you are?

P: It was all fine.

R: Do you think its ok, if someone else was in your position and they had one white parent and one Asian parent for them to say that I’m Asian or I’m white? Do you think it would be alright for them to say that?

P: Yeah because it’s up to them, what they believe they are. It depends what they want, if they want to take up Christianity they can do it. It’s up to them I suppose.

R: So you think it’s totally everyone’s own choice then. What they choose they want to be.

P: Yeah. Unless they got like really strict parents of same ethnicity

R: Oh so your parents might force you to be a Sikh or..

P: Yeah some people I know, a Sikh who didn’t want to have turban, my friend actually cut it off, but they didn’t tell them off

R: So do you think parents find that quite hard when their kids want to be less traditional

P: Depends who the parents are, if they’re strict, like mine it’s just me, it does’ matter if I’m Asian or anything I’m just me.

R: Have you got any brothers or sisters.

P: I’ve got two brothers

R: Do they go to this school then?

P: One does he is in Year 11 and the other one I think is 17 or 18
R: What does he do for a living?
P: Nothing at the moment
R: And what about them, do they feel the same as you about being Asian and being white
P: My oldest brother acts black if you now hat I mean and my other brother is just with everybody like me. That’s the one who’s in year 11.
R: So your older brothers black?
P: Well he’s Asian but he acts like he’s black
R: What do you mean by that?
P: He wants to be a gangster.
R: So what does he do?
P: Nothing
R: He sits at home and watches Deal or No Deal
P: No he sits listening to music.
R: So he listens to that sort of music?
P: Loud music.
R: That doesn’t help you with your studies does it?
P: He doesn’t live with us anymore so. He used to live in Blackpool and then he moved back here somewhere. I think he lives in Houndsworth now.
R: You don’t really see him much then?
P: He comes up every now and then.
R: Do you think that, well your family are quite supportive of you do you think?
P: As in...
R: Well like just in every day like what are your family like
P: I live with my mum and my brother
R: Do you see your dad at all?
P: My dads just up the road
R: Is he? Well that’s handy.
P: Normally I come home from school and go to my dads till about 7, come back and then do that nearly every day and then on weekends I stay with my dad until Sunday then I go back to my mums.
R: So you see quite a lot of your dad then?
P: But he’s got a lot of work to do because he’s actually a solicitor.
R: So you’re going to follow in your dads footsteps then
P: Well I’m going to be better than him.
R: One of the questions that we want to ask you about is if there’s anything the school or your family could do just in your everyday life. What could they do more that would be good for you that would make your life happier.
P: Well some teachers are a bit strict and take it out on other people because some other people are doing stuff they go all crazy.
R: You notice that in the questionnaire we ask you if you think you are treated differently because of your ethnic group. Do you think that you are ever treated differently because of your ethnic group at school or anything like that
P: No
R: What about other pupils?
P: No I don’t think so. If you’re naughty they tell you off...it depends on your attitudes and behaviour not really like what colour you are or anything
R: You mean it's more of an individual thing?
P: Personality
R: Ah I see your personality.
P: Now have you ever experienced any kind of prejudice?
R: No
P: Any kind of racism
R: No
P: That’s brilliant
R: Because people can’t really be racist to me because I’m all round so if they’re racist to me it’s like racist to themselves
P: Oh so they couldn’t be racist to you because you’re kind of like them?
R: Like that So dumb if they do.
P: But I’ve never had anyone be racist to me before
R: And what about your dads family do you see a lot of them at all?
P: I see a lot of my Nan on my dad’s side because she visits and stuff. I see my auntie quite often. I don’t see that much of his family except my auntie and my Nan.
R: Do they not live around here then
P: Well my auntie lives in Oxford so it’s quite far to visit. My Nan doesn’t live too far not too sure where she lives and I don’t know where the other ones live./
R: Scattered all over.
P: Some live in Scotland.
R: Do you think, what do you think could be done to alleviate any problems you have, so that just means what could the school do better to help you or society in general to help you growing up
P: Nothing really
P: For me, for other people...I’ve seen people just for what they wear being stopped by police. My friend, it was raining, with his hood up and he had balaclava across it and he got stopped and searched for nothing. Didn’t have anything
R: Why did he get stopped and searched just because he had his hood up?
P: I don’t know maybe I was on the other side of the road actually walking and I waited for him
R: Do you think that happens people getting stopped and searched for now reason?
P: I don’t know it’s never happened to me before though, it’s happened to him though
R: So what are you saying then people shouldn’t do that?
P: It depends, because some people might fair enough its the police so they can but it seemed a bit stupid, he didn’t have anything he wasn’t doing anything they just stopped him.
R: Bit of a waste of time really isn’t it.
P: I got stopped outside school once. I was walking back, because me and my friend, I live in Beld (?) and he lives on the way to Beld and we had PE so I went back to get my PE kit so we were 5 minutes late for registration and the police were driving past and they stopped us and go you have to get in the car now because we are taking you to reception and
we had to sit in reception for 20 minutes saying you shouldn’t be late and you made us this late and when we told them
it was because of our PE kit they didn’t believe us and we showed them our kit
R: And they didn’t believe you?
P: They didn’t believe us.
R: Do you think that happens a lot to teenagers? Do you think that’s something that people worry about?
P: It has happened to quite a few of my friends. My friend, he had the dentist and he was meeting his mum there and
he got stopped, my other friend, you know there’s two entrances to this school, he was coming up a bit late the gates
were locked so he had to go round and the police stopped him and he had to go and sit in the reception again. So I don’t
know maybe it’s because people do truant
R: Yeah I suppose they do want to stop truancy. Do you think...sometimes I read in the paper that people who are ethnic
minorities are more likely to be stopped and searched and stuff than white people. Do you think that’s true?
P: No
R: Or do you think they all of them are equally likely to be stopped?
P: Equally likely. I don’t think if you see an Asian person and a white person on the other side of the road he’s just
going to stop the Asian, will stop both
R: No matter who it is. Even if he has his hoody up
P: Not necessarily a hoody that might have been a one off. Just if they’re not in school at the right time the police will
be suspicious of him.
R: Nearly finished now. What about if, do you think you are English or British
P: I am British
R: Not English?
P: I’m English
R: And British?
P: I thought they were the same thing?
R: No...British is Scottish and English and Wales and Northern Ireland so like I’m Scottish and British as well
P: So English is just England?
R: Yes
P: So I’m English I suppose.
R: I’m confused now.
P: Well what’s Britain, Britain is the whole island.
R: Do you care about being English?
P: In a way. But not that much
R: Why’s that?
P: I don’t know. Not too bothered.
R: What would you say if your mum said she wanted you to start wearing a turban
P: Well she doesn’t want me to...you should have told me earlier
R: Do you think that would be a big turnaround for your mum because she’s ever said anything like that before??
P: Well they don’t really go because I’m Asian or anything
R: And what about your mums family do you see much of them?
P: Only my Nan and my cousin. Alf of them I don’t know where they are. We used to see a lot of them. We used to
live in Houndsworth (?) near another auntie. And now I see like two of my aunties and my cousin.
R: Do you ever wish you had more cousins around you?
P: No
R: You’d have to do more babysitting I suppose.
P: No just some can be annoying.
R: Just the usual stuff?
P: Yeah...mum he’s done this and I get told off.
R: Do you think it’s good to talk about ...do you think this research we’re doing asking you these questions do you think that’s a good think or what do you think?
P: I don’t really know what it’s for.
R: Well the point of asking you these questions is to try and see if we can find ways of helping you just to get on, of supporting you and making your life better. P: I think that’s a good thing for some people. People who wouldn’t normally say I don’t like this might tell you because it’s confidential and you might be able to stop it and for all they know everybody, like a lot of people, might have felt like that.
R: So you think people might be more likely to say what they really think?
P: Yeah because it’s confidential. I don’t think they’d like...if somebody didn’t want to wear a turban they’re not going to tell their parents because their parents would hit them.

**Participant 3**

R: What I want to talk to you about really is the kind of questions we were asking you about in the questionnaire this morning. What did you think about that?
P: Not much.
R: Did you think it was difficult or easy?
P: [shrugs]
R: Did you think that is was a useful thing to do? Did it make you think about anything you hadn’t thought about before?
P: No.
R: Well in the questionnaire it started off by asking you what your ethnic group was and your mum and dad and stuff. So what kind of things did you write down for that?
P: Can’t remember
R: So do you think you are white or...
P: White and black
R: Why is that then?
P: Because my dad is fully Irish and my mum is half English and half Jamaican.
R: So you’ve got a bit of a mixture there so if I asked you what ethnic group you are what would you say?
P: White and black
R: So if someone in the street, not me, was to say so are you white would you say no white and black or what?
P: I’d just say look at me and you’ll find out
R: So you think people could look at you and see that you are white and black then?
P: Nods
R: Well a lot of teenagers your age start to think about what their history is, where their parents come from and stuff like that. Do you ever think about that?
P: Sometimes
R: What do you think about that? What do you think about? Examples?
P: No
R: Are you happy with what your ethnic group is, being white and black?
P: Yeah
R: Why do you think it’s a good thing?
P: [no response]
R: What’s different from being white bad black to just being white or black?
P: Nothing
R: You think it’s just the same?
R: Do you ever feel like you are more white or black?
P: More black.
R: Why’s that?
P: Don’t know. Just black.
R: Thinking about the questions this morning, some of the questions was about how you get on with your mum and dad?
How do you get on with your mum and dad?
R: Do you get on ok with them?
P: Yeah
R: Do you live with them both?
P: Yeah
R: Are they alright?
P: Yeah
R: Are they strict?
P: Yeah
R: When are they strict?
P: When I get in to trouble.
R: You don’t get into trouble do you?
P: Yeah
R: Do you think your family give you support?
P: They just give me support with football and that
R: Oh are you into your football? Do you play football? Would they want you to play football professionally?
P: Yeah
R: Do you think you could do that?
P: Yeah
R: Any other jobs you think you would like to do in the future?
P: Yeah. Do what my uncles doing or sing
R: What does your uncle do?
P: Fixes cars.
R: What kind of music do you sing?
P: Like hip hop and other songs.
R: Are you from Liverpool?
P: [nod]
R: Do you think the school is quite good here? Do they support you?
P: No. Don’t like it.
R: Why’s that?
P: Get on my nerves.
R: How do they do that?
P: Just do.
R: Is there anything they could do to make it better?
P: Eat in class.
R: Do you get hungry in your lessons?
P: Yeah.
R: You know when I came to this school I was really surprised at the mixture of different ethnic groups at your school and not every school is like that. What do you think about coming to a school like that?
P: They’re just people.
R: Because you know I live in Kent which is south east of England and you got go to a school where all 1350 kids are white and maybe 10 kids are India. DO you think it would be different to go to a school like that compared to here?
P: Just the same.
R: Do you think of yourself as being English or British or what?
P: More Irish.
R: Have you been to Ireland?
P: Yeah
R: Do you have family there?
P: Yeah
R: Do you think that’s important being Irish?
P: [shrugs]
R: Not really thought about it?
P: Do you think your friends are from loads of different ethnic groups or white or…
R: All.
P: So you friends with anybody?
R: Last question now: Do you think the kind of questions we are asking you are good or what do you think about it?
P: [shrugs]

**Participant 4**

R: Do what do you think the school could do to include children from different backgrounds?

P: They could do different food from different races like afro-Caribbean, Indian, Asian and just stuff like that because usually its, well they’ve stopped doing burgers but its just stuff like chicken, vegetables, lasagne and stuff like that.
Participant 5

R: So I’m going to start by asking you a bit about the ethnic groups you belong to. So what would you say your ethnic background is?
P: My mum’s a Somalian, my dad’s Arabian and I’m born in Holland
R: Oh right, okay. So what do you usually describe yourself as, do you describe yourself as being all of those three things?
P: Yeah, all of those three things
R: And you feel like you’re equally each of those three things?
P: Yeah
R: Do you see both of your parents
P: No, I live with my mum, I don’t know my dad
R: So, research has shown that people start to think more about this sort of thing when they’re a teenager, you know, about what group they belong to. Is that true for you?
P: I don’t really think about it
R: But was there ever a time in your life when it occurred to you that you belonged to these groups? I mean, you’ve thought about it enough to know that you belong to these groups.
P: Well, I don’t think I’m as much Arabian as Dutch, but not really anything else.
R: Yeah, so you don’t think about it too much. So you don’t think it’s changed over time at all, how much you think about it?
P: No
R: OK, so do you ever wish you were just one ethnic group, like just Arabian or?
P: Yeah, I wish I was just one
R: Why is that?
P: Because it would be easier to think about rather than having to learn all these different languages.
R: So you’ve learnt..?
P: Yeah, I’ve learned Arabic but I’ve forgotten how to speak Dutch so I’m going to have to learn it again when I’m older.
R: Do you want to learn it again when you’re older then?
P: Yeah
R: So is it important to you that you know stuff about the three different groups?
P: Yeah
R: But overall you think it would be easier to belong to just one group
P: Yeah
R: So if you had to pick one, which one do you think it would be?
P: I don’t know, I can’t pick just one of them
R: Do you feel like belonging to these different groups has ever caused you any problems? For example, it might be quite confusing, I suppose.
P: Yeah, it is kind of confusing sometimes, but there are no other problems.
R: So confusing in what way, just because of the different languages and things?
P: Yeah… well I think I don’t really think about it all as much as I should do.
R: Well it’s not so much that you should think about it or not, more that we’re just interested in whether you do think about it. So are there any things that are good about belonging to three different groups?
P: Yeah, learning about different religions, but both of them… cos I’m full Muslim, but I’ve got a bit of White in me as well because I’m from Holland, but like, I know some stuff about Christians, but I know more about Muslims. But its good cos I know lots of information about different things, yeah.
R: So, do you ever feel guilty about wanting to be more one group than the other?
P: Well, yeah, when I was younger, I wanted to be more Arabian, but then I just didn’t want to think about it no more, because it’s confusing to think about.
R: And do you feel like you get enough support from your family in terms of the ethnic groups you belong to?
P: Yeah definitely, because my mum wants me to learn Arabian.
R: And what about school? Do you think school supports you?
P: Yeah, school supports me. I hang around with different people from different groups. So I don’t really mind hanging around with different people. And it’s easier for me to like know other people rather than to hang around with the people who are just the same as me.
R: Yeah, because it’s quite a multicultural school isn’t it? So do most of your friends have mixed backgrounds?
P: Well, one of them is black, one of them is half-caste, one of them is just full White and one of them has got Asian in them.
R: So it’s just a complete mix?
P: Yeah
R: And do you think that’s the same for most people at school, that they mix, or are there groups made up of all the same ethnic group?
P: Some of them, it’s just all black people together and all white people together, it’s just different, but the half-caste people mostly stick together, though
R: Oh right, okay. So, do you feel like you’ve ever experienced any kind of prejudice or racism?
P: No…well, I think actually once, someone called me… what was it… they thought I was Asian and Bengali, and they started calling me “fish” and I was like, “I’m not Bengali”
R: Fish?
P: Yeah, because Bengali gets called “fish” and Pakistani gets called “bread”
R: Okay, I didn’t know that!
P: Yeah, its weird isn’t it? That’s what I thought!
R: So what are your plans for the future?
P: Being a nursery nurse.
R: So after your GCSEs, do you think you’ll stay in school?
P: Yeah, I want to do my A Levels.
R: University?
P: Yeah
R: And do you ever worry that your ethnic group would have a negative impact on that? Do you ever worry that someone wouldn’t give you a job because of it?
P: No, I don’t think people are racist until you actually do something to them to make them like that.
R: And what about getting married in the future? Would your family be okay with whoever you married?
P: Yeah, it wouldn’t matter what group they belonged to
R: So, this organization wants to do stuff to make things better for teenagers, so is there anything that you think would improve stuff, like at school
P: Yeah, get different groups together, with people from different ethnic groups, and make them talk to each other, and talk about their racial…talk about what they think about other people. I think that might be an easier way to get people to get to know each other.
R: And what about with your family? Is there anything there that could be done to make things easier?
P: No, it’s fine.
R: Do you ever think there’s a conflict between being British and also being a member of an ethnic minority group?
P: No, I don’t really mind. I think it’s nice. It’s easier for me like that, because I’m used to it now.
R: And do you think it’s important to do things associated with your ethnic heritage?
P: Yeah, well I’m a Muslim. I think it’s good for me to learn about Islam because there are things that you need to know. It’s easier for me to know all the stuff about Islam because I have more of that in me. And the Koran is in Arabic, so I’m learning Arabic, so it’ll be easier, it’ll be easy.

Participant 6

R: So we are going to have a chat about some things based on the questionnaire you did earlier. I would like you to know that everything is anonymous here and your name is not going to be used anywhere and this is just a good chance for you to express how you feel, who you are, what is your opinion on certain things because some important people will take into consideration what we do in this research so if you want to say something it’s a good opportunity here because some policy makers, some policy makers will take these things into consideration.
R: So what did you think about the questionnaire you filled in? What did you think it was about?
P: What the questions asked me?
R: Yeah. So it was pretty much about your ethnicity, your ethnic identity. Are you familiar with things like that have you thought about your ethnic identity?
P: No
R: So think of your parents, what ethnic background they are from
P: Half German and half Indian
R: And how do you consider yourself? What do you think is your ethnic background?
P: That.
R: So mixed race?
P: Yeah
R: So you feel that you would describe yourself that you belong to both groups?
P: Yeah.
R: Is this something important for you? Is this mixed race an important part of who you are?
P: Well yeah it’s just who I am.
R: Do you ever feel confused?
P: No
R: ...about that?
P: No
R: Do you sometimes feel that you belong more to one group than another?
P: No
R: When you become a teenager I guess you start thinking about things like ‘who am I?’ ‘What am I doing in my life?’ Is your mixed race something that you have considered in the past? Like how it influences you?
P: No. I don’t really think about it. I just think I’m half German, half Indian and that’s all I’ve ever known. I know more about German than Indian
R: So how come you know more about German?
P: Because I was born there. I’ll go to India soon
R: Is it something that has to do with your family? So maybe your family taught you more about one culture than another?
P: No it’s just because I’ve never been to India and can’t speak Indian anyway.
R: So do you think that maybe after your trip there you will have more of an opinion on that culture?
P: I don’t know. It’s like, I’m proud to be half Indian as well. It’s not like I don’t have an opinion. I just…
R: Did being a mixed race student cause you any trouble or any problems in general?
P: No I didn’t have any problems. Well, sometimes people say things to me like ‘Hitler’ but they’re not like that anymore, that was before. It’s not all of them, its people who think race..that’s what you have at school.
R: These incidents do they take place in school or outside in society?
P: No here in the school. But I don’t really care.
R: This is a very multicultural school isn’t it? How do you feel about that, being in a school with children form many different ethnicities? Is it something you enjoy?
P: Yeah. I’m not racist or something. I mean its ok.
R: And has something ever happened to you that made you realise that your ethnic group is an important part of who you are?
P: No.
R: Because you know some people have had some bad incidents in their life or some pleasant incidents that make them realise how important it is to be a mixed race person. You don’t have anything in mind.
R: Do you think you ever have to choose between being a white and Asian person?
P: No. You mean white and Asian? What do you mean?
R: If you can think of an occasion where you actually had to choose if you belonged to one group or another
P: No I belong to both!
R: Do you think there are some problems that people of mixed race might face in their life?
P: No.
R: In terms of finding a job or…
P: As long as people aren’t racist.
R: As long as people aren’t racist definitely.
P: There aren’t many people who are racist. Just like the kids here in school. There are not many people who come from here who are racist. It’s just kids here being stupid.
R: So maybe it’s important to have in mind that society must not be racist so as to make everybody’s life easier
P: Yes
R: Do you think that the society in England is like that? They can accept every kind of background, or are they racist?
P: What in England?
R: Do you think society here in England accepts mixed race people?
R: What about things in school? Do you think the school can do something to improve your life?
P: What do you mean?
R: Just any kind of policy that the school can make in order to make your life easier, to make your life better?
P: I’ve not got no problem.
R: So we were chatting with other students and they said for example that it would be useful or interesting to start teaching students about other cultures so maybe have one month doing Indian culture, one month African culture, something like that
P: I don’t think they should do that. I don’t know
R: You don’t think that’s necessary?
P: The school is trying to get people who are racist but they are really insusceptible. There are still racist people who say racist things to people who come from other countries. And the school tried…
R: So what does the school do to try and avoid that? What did they try?
P: Had assemblies about that, but it don’t really work at this school.
R: No?
R: It’s something that we should take into consideration isn’t it? How to make people less racist?
P: Well I mean I could to the office and say, but I ignore the people who are saying it. It’s not all of them it’s just sometimes
R: Yeah. So it doesn’t feel nice to go to the office and say ‘this person said this’.
P: Well I have no problem with that but I just ignore the people.
R: So you just believe you shouldn’t pay any attention to their comments
P: How about your friends? Who are your friends? Are they people from mixed races?
R: Most of them are half Indian, half English. Most of them.
P: It’s not like I wouldn’t get together with black people. But it’s just like that
R: Why do you think it’s like that?
P: It’s not like, a black boy couldn’t be my friend. It’s just how it is. They’re just my friends. I didn’t like choose them if they’re white or not
R: Mmm. Maybe you have more things in common with British Asian people than with black?
P: No
R: No? So how come you are friends with them?
P: Just kind of [?] Because I don’t want to say anything bad. It’s just how it is.
R: Is it easy to be British and mixed race?
P: Yeah. It is.
R: You don’t think that you have some problems in your every day life?
P: No I’ve got no problems at all
R: Is there something that your family could do in your everyday life?
P: No it’s fine
R: Is there anything else you would like to say?
P: Do you think what we are trying to do here is important?
R: Yeah it is.
**Participant 7**

R: So, I’m just going to start by asking you a bit about the ethnic group you belong to. So you know the questionnaire this morning was asking you questions about that sort of thing. So what ethnic group do you consider yourself to be?

P: Asian and White. My mum’s White and my dad’s Asian

R: So, do you see yourself as being equally White and Asian, or?

P: White

R: So you consider yourself to be more White than Asian?

P: Yeah

R: So why do you think that is?

P: Because I don’t really know my dad’s side of the family.

R: Oh, okay.

P: I don’t really see my dad, and I live with my mum.

R: Do you have brothers and sisters?

P: I’ve got a sister who’s the same as me, and I’ve got brother with the same mum but different dads.

R: Oh, okay. So, is your ethnic group important to you?

P: No

R: No, so it’s not something that you…?

P: No, it doesn’t really bother me.

R: Is it not something you really think about much?

P: No

R: So you’re not in favour of it or against it?

P: No

R: Ok, so you’re not really bothered about it either way.

P: No

R: Do you ever wish that you were just one group rather than two?

P: No, not at all

R: Okay. So you said before that you think of yourself more as White. Was there a particular time when you started to think of yourself that way?

P: Yeah

R: I think there’s some research that shows that often when people are teenagers they start to think about that sort of thing a lot more. Have you started to think about it more recently? Or have you just always felt that way?

P: Well when I was younger I used to be with my dad as well as with my mum, but since they split up, cos everyone was White…

R: Yeah, I guess that must have a big effect on you. So would you say the way you see yourself has stayed the same since your parents split up?

P: Yeah

R: How old were you when that happened?
P: About 9
R: So do you feel that being mixed race has had any negative effects on you?
P: No
R: So you've never felt like anyone treated you differently?
P: No
R: You've never experienced any racism or anything like that?
P: No
R: And do you feel like your school supports you?
P: Yeah
R: So there are no problems, basically?
P: No
R: Well, that's good. So are there any things that you think are particularly good about your ethnic background?
P: I don't know
R: You know, like things that make it better than being in a different ethnic group
P: No
R: So you said before that you felt more White than Asian. Do you ever feel bad about favouring that group?
P: No
R: So if you knew someone else who had a White mum and an Asian dad, and they saw themselves as being both, do you think that's okay as well? Do you think it's better to be a member of one group than both? Do you think it makes your life easier, thinking of yourself as one rather than two?
P: I don't know, probably, but I don't know.
R: Okay. So I'm going to ask you some more general questions not so much to do with your ethnic identity. So, are you happy in your family? Do you feel like your mum supports you and your family supports you?
P: Yeah. But a lot of the time I can't tell her stuff
R: Is that just because you're a teenager? Or
P: Mostly it's because she's just had a miscarriage.
R: Oh no. But normally are things okay with your family?
P: Yes
R: And what about school? Are you happy at school?
P: Yeah. But I'm on report because I got excluded?
R: Oh really? So what was that about then?
P: The teachers...yeah, I don't get along with my teachers in here. I never have. Since year 10 my maths teacher doesn't like me. Because my family is here and he has never got along with my family, so I don't know. He just picks on me now.
R: Oh dear. And you think that's because he doesn't get along with your family?
P: Part of it is that he's thinking "There's another one"
R: Oh, I see what you mean. So you've got older brothers or?
P: Cousins and stuff. They used to get excluded and argue with the teacher and stuff
R: So you think it makes them think you're the same as them?
P: Yeah
R: So how long do you have to stay on report for?
P: It just depends. If I get any crosses it'll be for longer, but if I get any ticks it'll be alright
R: Oh, okay
P: And I’ve got ticks
R: Oh, well that’s okay. So what happens when you’re on report?
P: Well I got excluded and I came back today, and then I’ve got on report.
R: So how long were you excluded for?
P: 3 days
R: So do you feel like you’ve ever experienced any kind of prejudice or any racism or anything
P: No
R: So apart from the stuff with teachers, do you feel like you get on okay at school in terms of having plenty of friends? And you feel like you fit in, and don’t feel lonely or anything?
P: Uh-huh
R: So you’ve got lots of friends
P: Yeah
R: Okay. And are most of your friends White, or Asian or Black or?
P: They are mixed up. They’re all different.
R: So do you think people from different groups are all friends with each other or do they tend to hang around in separate groups?
P: Well, you’ve got the Asians hanging around together, and then you’ve got the blacks, and then the Whites
R: So some of the groups do stick together, but you don’t think that you do that? Most of your friends tend to be a mix?
P: Yeah
R: So is there anything…overall, this is your chance to say anything. I mean, no-one will know your name but people will listen to you and what you have to say. So if there’s anything about school that you’d maybe want to be different or if there’s anything that you think would make your life better in any way….like in terms of getting more help off teachers…?
R: So you don’t really get along with teachers
P: No
R: So you think that’s them being mean to you rather than…?
P: Yeah, when teachers have a go at us, we can’t argue back with them.
R: So you don’t feel like you get the chance to get your point across?
P: No. And when I do I just get excluded.
R: Finally, what do you want to do when you leave school?
P: Childcare, cos I look after loads of little kids in my family, and I just love little kids.
R: So can you do that at GCSEs?
P: Well, I’m doing child development
R: And do you think you’ll stay on at school after 16?
P: Yeah, probably?
R: And what would you do? Is it A Levels?
P: Yeah
Participant 8

R: What did you think about the questionnaire?
P: It was kind of bad that you forgot black people at the end of it.
R: You know that was an honest mistake
P: Yeah. I thought it was alright questionnaire.
R: So are you familiar with terms like ethnic group?
P: Yeah.
R: And is it a topic that you are interested in? Is it something that you have thought about like that?
P: I actually think about my black history because I don’t live with my dad and he’s the white side of me and I live with my mum and she’s kind of taught me all about it and stuff.
R: This is an important chance for you to speak about who you are and how you feel and these kind of issues are going to be heard by important people like policy makers and you have a chance to speak about yourself and about your ethnicity and then hopefully something will be done to improve the life of everyone here
R: So what ethnic group do you belong in?
P: Mixed race I’m white and black Caribbean.
R: White and black Caribbean. OK so what ethnic group is your mum and dad
P: My mum’s black Caribbean and my dad’s white.
R: Cool. So is your ethnic group important for you.
P: I think so because I’m mixed so I’ve got to accept that I’m from two different ethnic groups and I should learn about all the groups and associate to everybody, ethnic group is no matter what and know what your ethnic group is. I think its an important subject but we shouldn’t be split up or anything about it because like in our school, no offence to anybody or anything, but a lot of people do regulate because there’s like a group of black girls and a group of Indian girls and the Indian boys will...everybody kind of splits up and its not their fault or anything but it just happens.
R: Yeah? So you think that being who you are has influenced the way you mix with people in the school, your friendships maybe?
P: No not really. I’ve got a whole mix of friends, different ethnics everything.
R: Do you think there are certain problems in being mixed race?
P: Sometimes because people...because the other day I got called a half breed and I nearly had to kill somebody, but I think sometimes people think because you’re mixed and that people shouldn’t do that it gets kind of annoying but I have no problem with it myself but if someone’s going to say to me oh you’re not good enough because you’re a mix you’re not a full they’ve got issues they need to learn about other peoples ethnic background
R: Do you think that in the future it might be an issue or not?
P: I don’t think so but, I was thinking about going into politics or something and everybody in the house of commons is either white or their men so even genders in that one so its going to be harder for me to get a job like that. I have to think about it.
R: But we have to fight for what we want.
P: I know I haven’t even decided what I want to be yet so. But I think if I went into something like that because. I think being me and not being big headed or nothing but I am very clever and everything so I think I can make a difference in the world and get things forward because at school we have a black history month and all we get is a presentation in assembly and I really don’t think it does much
R: Yeah?
P: Because nobody listens in assembly and I think they should actually put it into lessons black history month. Because we learn about battle of Hastings, English stuff, but they should have black history moth, they should have Asian history month, everybody should have their own history month and it should be incorporated into school
R: That’s a very interesting idea. Very interesting. DO you think the school would be willing to adopt such an intervention?
P: I’m not sure. Sometimes we did it for the past three years we went to a black community conference and its like a lot of black kids from all the school sin the area go and they teach us about black history and all kinds of things and how do we see the world and how do people treat us because we’re black and I think they’re good but I think they should be offered to everybody else as well so the Asian group should also get it as well. And I’m not sure about the white group because more of the school stuff is like history and stuff is more to do with them because we live in England..
R: Because they’re the majority
P: Yeah.
R: So everybody’s more familiar with white history. So you’re saying that there should be more of a chance more of opportunity to get familiar with other histories and backgrounds. And how about any other, apart from your school, can you think of another area in your life that you think there is a need for some intervention of some kind?
P: I think my life is pretty good to do with ethnic stuff because my mum teaches me about anything. She’s never said anything racist or anything, she’s pretty even and everything and she’s always told me that I have to embrace my white side and accept it and be more with it and things because most of, well the little group I hang out with is a couple of white girls, a couple of Indian girls, a couple of black girls so its like a real mixture and everything but [as]a black people, say I tend to act more black than white if you’re going on about stereotypes and things so mum says I have to accept it more and...But I don’t know any of the other side of my family besides my dad
R: Right
P: I’ve met them once for one Christmas and that’s about it and then my other granddad he sends me £20 on my birthday for and for Christmas but besides that I don’t see him so..
R: So maybe family plays an important role as well
P: I think it does. I think it depends if your parents are together and things. Because I think I’ve been brought up really well in a single parent family but sometimes when you’ve got 2 ethnic backgrounds your parents will probably..When they’re together you’re probably going to get influence from both f them but when they’re apart you’re going to get more of the one side that you live with.
R: Do you think that your dads side is happy with who you are?
P: Hmmm I’m not sure about that one. Well my dad has three mixed race kids because there’s me and my two brothers and we’ve all got separate mums. But my dad likes his boys better for some unknown reason because of because and stuff because he’s a mechanic. But
R: Well there are girls who like cars and things as well...
P: I don’t mind them he took me to races and stuff that was fine and we went go-karting and that was alright but because he never really told his family about me and Ben we’re the younger two and he wasn’t with our mums, like he never told them about our mums so we came as kind of a shock to them because they were expecting us to be white kids and we weren’t. But when I went down there for that Christmas we went to two parts of the family because he’s got one sister and one brother. Went to the brothers and everyone kind of treated me differently. And the kids were fine because when you’re that young you haven’t had the time to get influenced already by it by race and everything.
When you’re that young everybody’s equal, nothing else matters you don’t understand about that. They were fine but the adults were kind of like staring at me and I asked my dad about tit and he said that’s because no black people live in that area it’s down south like in a white suburban area, and then when we went to the other house, they live in the same area but treated me totally differently, were really kind to me and treated me like a normal person. Didn’t stare or nothing. Took pictures and everything and she even gave me a Christmas present even though she didn’t know I was coming. She was really nice to me but I think the whole family is kind of slightly dysfunctional. I think its good for me but I think I should probably see that side of the family more because they live very far away from me its not really very easy to

R: Have you changed in how you see yourself in terms of your ethnic identity since you were younger?
P: When I was little it didn’t really matter to me and then in primary school black people shouldn’t be in our school and that was when my mum started to say stuff and try and make sure I knew about my black side and everything, and so that was...I think from...but it’s changed a lot now because now I’ve learned so much about my background and where I’ve come from, I think I should defend it still, I don’t think other people should treat me different because of what ethnicity I am. They can treat me different because of my views or whatever and anything that I think that they don’t agree with but if they treat me different because of my colour I don’t think that’s fair.

R: So was there a specific event that made you realise what’s going on there?
P: I don’t think so no. I think it’s just been pretty...alright. There’s not been a decision for me in my life where everything’s changed.

R: Do you ever feel that you have to choose between being this and that?
P: Mmmm slightly because most people think that I’m black if they don’t know me. Because when we were talking about half white they’re really shocked because I’m quite dark because my mums black. They don’t treat me different after that but there’ll be little things like oh you can’t say that because you’re not full black. I think it doesn’t bother me because there’s no point in getting into a big old argument about it. I think it’s alright but just a little too much to be stressing about.

R: Yeah...
P: You shouldn’t really.

R: OK. Would you like to tell me what are the advantages, how does it feel in positive terms to be mixed race. What do you enjoy?
P: I enjoy it because I get to be both sides. I get to eat black food and everything, English food and everything, I am influenced by both sides and no one can say things to me that...like one side you can’t...you’re an individual, it’s like you’re a new race kind of thing, you’re not one you’re not the other you’re your own person. And most people I know that are mixed race they’ve got white mums and black dads. SO I think I’m kind of my own person, I’ve got my own mix and I’m a proper individually

R: You know you live in England, is it easy to be British and mixed race?
P: I think so. I don’t think there’s any problems there but sometimes when there’s things like football and you hear about racism and things in there and you know that racism still goes on because even round here there’s places that have still got NF and there’s parties like the BNP because if you’re going to keep to the rules of the law and stuff them people shouldn’t be able to do that, it isn’t fair and that. But in this area Smethwick it’s so multicultural I think everything’s alright but if I lived somewhere that’s probably more like a white area I’d probably find it hard to fit in there.

R: And do you think it’s important to associate yourself with characteristics of your ethnic identity.
P: No. There's no point because...some people you treat me like that because I’m black innit and all that but they’re not
treating you like that because you’re black, they’re treating you like that because you’re bad, and black people, the
older ones that have got guns and stuff, the only reason they’re taking out guns and acting all bad is because society
sees them that way. SO if you’re black and you’re young and you’ve got a gun, even if you’re not and you’ve got a
hoody on people treat you differently. It’s just stupid. Because if I’m going don the street and I’ve got a hood on, and
they’re telling me I can’t go into somewhere because I’ve got a hood on. It’s the same as saying oh you can’t go into
there because you’re black, or you can’t go into there because you’re white. They shouldn’t have segregated things.
Everybody should be able to go to things together and it’ll be alright.
R: Let’s go back to your friends now. I think you said they’re from different backgrounds...
P: Well my main group, Gemma’s white, Nita’s Indian, Neesha, Shakira and Jamelia are black, Shannon’s got quarter
white in her and...I think that’s everybody. Yeah that’s everybody. Most of them are black but it’s a mix so nobody’s
like I’m not talking to you because I’m black kind of thing. We’re not split up or nothing we’re all together
R: So being here in this multicultural school, do you think it helps?
P: I think it helps because if you live in an area that is all white or just one colour you’re not going to be able to know
about other peoples religion or their culture or anything so when you do that when you going to move on into life and
you might move away to college or something, you’re not going to be able to accept other peoples religions or
everything and you’ll end up just either left on your own or again in the same little group and you might end up
developing racist views towards people that you don’t know anything about.

Participant 9

R: How did you feel about the questionnaire? What did you think it was about?
P: Like if you feel like you’re proud of your culture and how you feel about it and stuff like that.
R: What do you think about culture, like are you familiar with terms like ethnicity, do you know what ethnic group
means?
P: Aha
R: So which ethnic group do you belong to?
P: Black Caribbean and white mixed race
R: So what’s your mum and dad?
P: My mums white and my dads black.
R: So now we are going to have a little chat and hopefully you are going to enjoy it. Of course its all anonymous, but
its a good chance to describe to us who you are, how you feel about certain things and what you’re going to say might
be important because some important people might hear these things and you can help your every day life become
better, some important people like politicians, policy makers might take some action after our interviews here.
R: Would you describe yourself as belonging to different ethnic groups?
P: No belong to my one
R: So which ethnic group?
P: Black and white
R: So mixed race.
R: So is your ethnic group important for you and who you are.
P: Yeah. Because like I can learn about Martin Luther King and the rights that we didn't have and how we changed everything so we could have rights and got shot down because of trying to help our culture. It's good like interesting learning about it

R: Do you ever feel confused about your identity because it’s mixed race identity?
P: Not really

R: Do you feel that you are more one part of your identity more than the other? More black or more white?
P: More black

R: Why?
P: Because I don’t know. I just...I would class myself as a black person and I wouldn’t class myself as a white person.

R: What do you think influences this? Is this something that comes from your family that makes you feel like a black person?
P: Mmmm my grandma lives inn Jamaica but that’s it that’s how I feel.

R: When did you start thinking of yourself as a mixed race person? Was it a particular even that made you think about these thing or is it something that came naturally

P: Came naturally. Nothing to think about really.

R: And have you changed how you see yourself since you were younger, like now that you are a teenager do you think more about who you are, what ethnic identity you belong to?
P: I like standing up for my rights. I feel more strongly about it.

R: So how do you stand up for your rights?
P: Say like...if someone swears at your culture and says you black something I will stand up for it and say what’s wrong with it because there’s nothing wrong with it and all that because there’s nothing wrong with any culture really its just some people have got problems isn’t it.

R: So did being a mixed race person cause you any problems?
P: No not really.

R: How did you feel about being in a school like that in a multicultural school?
P: It’s good because you get to meet different people from different cultures and like get to know what they’re like and that because we learn about Muslims and everything. It’s good. Interesting.

R: Cool. Do you think that you ever had to choose between being a black or a white person? Did you ever feel that you had to make a choice between one identity and another?
P: Not really. I don’t know it’s just me. I can’t explain it. It’s hard to explain.

R: Yeah I understand it’s just the way you grew up and just being you

P: Yeah the environment I’m around

R: Yeah it just feels natural I guess

R: So what does your family think about your ethnic identity? Do they have strong views?
P: Well I don’t see my black side of my family a lot because my grandma lives in Jamaica and my auntie and my two cousins live in London and the rest of them live in houndsworth and I don’t really see them a lot. I see more the white side of my family like nearly every Sunday and that’s all.

R: Do you think that there’s something your family could do to make things better for you?
P: Not really. I’m fine, nothing wrong. No problems

R: How about your school? Do you think you have enough support from your school?
P: I think that in RS we should do more about Martin Luther King and that because we have like Muslims and
everything and we don’t learn that much about black people and I don’t really find that fair if you know what I mean.
R: So the school promotes certain
P: Religions
R: Religions than ethnic backgrounds so you think it would be useful as an intervention...
P: To know every religion instead of just certain ones.
R: Do you think the school is willing to adopt such a policy?
P: Yeah. Probably
R: Yeah. Erm. Do you think that being a mixed race person maybe caused some problems for your future like in terms
of finding a job or making a family or things like that, have you ever thought about that?
P: Finding a job. Because arm some like people think that you see a black person you think they’re bad and all that,
they get up to no good, most people think that, but it's not like that, because some people even if they’re white or Asian
or whatever they could still be bad or good. Nobody knows unless you get to know the other person. Like if you go for
an interview for a job you should get to know the person as well as their qualifications so you know that like they’re
good or bad.
R: So you think that maybe some people are going to use stereotypes they have about bad people, or black people or
Asian?
P: Yeah
R: Have you ever faced anything like that?
P: Not often, but every now and again, once every three months or something, something comes up like people just call
some people names, like if I’m with a group of black people, or mixed race people, they give dirty looks or say bad
words. It’s disrespectful
R: Is this between the kids or adults as well?
P: Some adults do it as well. Adults and kids
R: Um. Do you have something in mind that could be done in order to make things better for you and other mixed race
people?
P: Like I don’t think so.
P: Like more knowledge about other culture, so maybe family is an important issue too, maybe family can help to
support...
R: So we live in England, so how does it feel to be British and mixed race when the majority is white British majority?
P: Well I was born in England so nobody can’t really say anything to me because it’s not like I'm a black immigrant
because I was born in England and I was brought up by my English family, because my dad was born in Jamaica but
my dads lived in England for most of his life with my mum. But they can’t not really, I was born in England and I feel
British
R: Do you think it’s important to do things that are associated with a black person because you said you were a black
person?
P: You mean, not bad but kind of like on the ghetto side, like hats and
R: Why do you think this is important?
P: It’s just a black thing really. I can’t explain it. It’s hard to explain. It’s just natural. It comes naturally, you get
certain clothes, you pick them up, you think they’re nice and you just wear them a certain way.
R: Is it something that you like because it points out who you are maybe?
P: Yeah
R: That you are different and you like it
P: Yeah
R: Just a few things about your friends. Who are your friends? Are they people from mixed race, black people, white people? You go to a multicultural school so I guess you have a chance to interact with.
P: Yeah I’ve got white friends, on of my real good friends is half Asian and half white, she’s one of my real good friends, out of school its mainly mixed race and black people because I don’t really go out after school with the people from school. Most of my friends are mainly black or mixed race but I do have some Asian and white friends.
R: So the majority of your friends are black or mixed race people. How come?
P: I don’t know. I don’t know
R: Do you think you fit in better with them?
P: Not really. Its just like, kind of like we talk the same if you know what I mean, like you know like some people they try and act like something you’re not. Like if you’re black you don’t need to act anything different because like you feel like in the connection like. Like you feel like right. I don't know. Like you can interact more with a black, like I’m a mixed race person and I feel I can interact more with a mixed race person on the same level if you know what I mean.
R: Is there something else you would like to say that you have in your mind?
P: Not really

**Participant 10**

R: So, you did the questionnaire earlier. So what did you think it was about?
P: I didn’t really understand what it was asking us.
R: Well basically we’re doing this research. I’m a psychologist at the University of Birmingham and we’re doing this research for an organization called Race Education Sandwell, and they are really interested in finding out what teenagers are experiencing today and what it’s like being a teenager, and specifically what people from different ethnic groups think, what it’s like for them, and if they have any particular concerns, like what sort of things do they think might make their life better or easier in any way. I hope that makes sense. So I’m going to just ask you some questions.
So I’m going to start with some background questions. What is your ethnic group?
P: Black and Asian, well half black and half Asian
R: So your parents are...?
P: My mum is black and my dad is Asian
R: Ah, OK. And so do you see yourself as being more one, or more the other?
P: Yeah, because I don’t live with my dad, and all my family is black
R: So you think of yourself as being more black than Asian?
P: Yes
R: So that’s maybe because you live with your mum?
P: Yeah, but it’s not just that. It’s just because I’ve been brought up that way anyway, because my mum has been really strict, but my dad is like easy going and my mum is more strict so I remember more what she tells me to do. So I remember that side more.
R: So do you think it is important to you, your ethnic identity? Do you feel like it’s important to you, being black or being Asian, or both?
P: It didn’t at first, but now it does. It’s quite important because…I don’t know, I’m just alright, I’m together.
R: So you feel more black than Asian. But when did you start thinking about things like that? At what sort of age did you think “this is the group I belong to”?
P: I don’t know. Probably when I started high school because all my friends are black and I guess, I don’t know…I guess I’ve always acted black, like more that side anyway. I’ve never acted like my other side (Asian), I’ve never acted like that.
R: Yeah, that’s really interested. So, do you ever wish you were just one ethnic group, just black without being Asian as well?
P: I don’t wish that, no. I’m alright with it. I’m just the way I am.
R: Great, OK. So do you feel that being from the ethnic groups you belong to has ever caused you any problems in any way?
P: No
R: So you’ve never felt like anyone treated you differently, or you’ve never experienced racism or anything like that?
P: Well maybe on the street, with like older people, old women and stuff, like old people. You know what I mean?
R: Really?
P: Like, if I’m in town or something, but not really, not from people of this generation.
R: And you don’t feel that there’s anything at school, that anything bothers you as a result of your ethnic group?
P: No
R: OK, so what do you think are the good things about belonging to your ethnic group? What are the positive things?
P: I don’t know!
R: Sorry, I know these are quite difficult questions!
P: There aren’t really any positive things. There’s nothing bad, there’s nothing good. It’s just how it is.
R: So do you feel that you’ve ever had to choose between being black and being Asian? I know you say you feel more black than Asian so, I don’t know, has your dad ever wanted you to be more Asian or is he happy with things as they are?
P: No, not really. Yeah, my dad, I don’t know. My mum doesn’t…because he’s Asian, my mum doesn’t trust that side because, and this is kind of weird, but you know how like they marry girls off when they are young, like send them off to Pakistan or something? Well, my mum’s never really trusted him. So it’s like I get a feeling that, it’s like I’m glad I’m not that colour now. That’s how I feel. That I’m glad I’m not, because I don’t want to get married at 15.
R: Do you feel like that might happen if you were more on that side of the family?
P: I think that it probably almost definitely would.
R: Really?
P: Yeah, because…
R: Do you have any brothers or sisters on that side of the family?
P: Yeah, he’s got other children that don’t have the same mum as me.
R: Do you think that might happen to them?
P: Well they’re boys, so it wouldn’t happen to them.
R: Do you ever feel guilty or bad for your dad that you’ve decided to stick more with your mum’s side of the family?
P: Well I do sometimes…oh I don’t know because I am allowed to see him when I want to, but when my mum’s there. But I don’t really feel sorry for him. Well, I do when he starts crying. But I just tell him, he knows my mum’s outspoken and he knows I’m like her, so I’ll just say I don’t care.

R: So do you think it’s okay to have more than one identity? I know you’ve chosen to stick with one, but do you think it’s okay for people to have both if they want to? Or do you think it’s just easier, or better anyway to just have one? Do you think it would be harder if you had to think of yourself as black and Asian at the same time?

P: No not really, because when I was younger, I used to be like that anyway, because my mum had Asian friends, and when they used to come to our house, my mum used to…my mum makes curries and stuff, and she makes Jamaican food too, so it’s like I get a taste of both.

R: That’s really good. So it’s a good thing to have both then?

P: Yeah…no it’s not a good thing or a bad thing; it’s just the way it is.

R: So more generally, just thinking about what it’s like to be a teenager right now. Do you think there’s anything that your family could do to make it easier for you?

P: To be a teenager?

R: Yeah, well just thinking about how your life is at the moment, if there anything your family could do in terms of how they treat you and support you and help you and stuff…do you feel like you get all the support you need?

P: I think I do, yeah, really I do.

R: And do you get that from both sides of your family?

P: I don’t see my dad that often….because I’m busy. But yeah, I guess I do, yeah.

R: And what about school? Do you think that school could do anything? Apart from giving you less homework!

P: I don’t know…the school’s fine. I think it’s good, it’s better the way it’s doing things this year.

R: So what are they doing?

P: Well, you know the exams? Well now we do the exams straight after each topic, and I think that’s better than having a long week of exams.

R: Yeah, that must be horrible. So that’s good. OK. So what sort of things do you do that do are associated with the ethnic groups you belong to, in terms of food or religion…are there things that you do that are specifically related to your ethnic group?

P: Yeah! I don’t know, because I don’t know, you know like, every colour has fashionable clothes, but I don’t know, I seem to think that black people have proper fashionable clothes, and Indian people, you know what I mean? Yeah, so I think that the way I dress, like on the street, is probably…people know that I’m black. And the food that I eat, like in the week, my mum will cook Jamaican. It’s Jamaican food I normally eat anyway. And at the weekend my Nan makes Jamaican food too.

R: Okay, so I’ve just got some final questions, just about your friends at school. Do you have a lot of friends?

P: Yeah, I think I’m friends with everyone really.

R: Well, that’s good. You’re popular! So do you think you fit in well?

P: Yeah, I’m just glad that this school is, what do you call it….has lots of different colours in it?

R: Multicultural?

P: Yeah, multicultural. It’s like, no-one cares what colour you are really in this school, except you know, I think that a lot of Asian people, they’re like, a little bit racist towards white people, like, in a way, not like in an extreme way, but like they kind of are. I noticed that, because when there are white boys, they’ll be like, following them, and bullying them or something, or being horrible, and I think that’s bad, yeah. That’s it. But I don’t really have a problem.

R: So it doesn’t really affect you in any way?
P: No
R: And so would you say you have friends from lots of different groups?
P: Yeah, but I only hang around with black people. Not because it’s my choice, but just because we get along more, like we have more in common than me and other groups, if you know what I mean.
R: And just in general in the school, do you think that’s the same way other groups feel? Do you think the White kids stick together and...
P: Yeah, if you notice, that is the case, but with the friends I have, there’s one who’s half White and half Indian, but that’s mostly the case, I’ve noticed.
R: But no-one doesn’t like each other?
P: Yeah, it’s not because they’ve chosen that, it’s just that because they’ve come from the same school, maybe they’ve known them longer, and that sort of thing. But it’s not a racist thing, I don’t think.
R: OK, that’s about it.

Participant 11

R: OK so thank you very much for coming here. You were sitting in seat 104 in south hall right?
P: Yeah
R: So you remember the questionnaire yesterday yeah?
P: Yeah
R: What did you think about it?
P: To be honest with you I thought it was, the questions I thought it was just dull.
R: Which questions you thought were dull?
P: Mostly all of it.
R: Why do you think so?
P: I don’t know I just think it was. Most of it was just you asking the same questions over and over again.
R: Oh OK and you thought it was boring?
P: Not boring just dull.
R: What do you think the questionnaire was about?
P: Like your race and all that
R: Right. Are you familiar with these kinds of things, race and ethnicity?
P: Not ethnicity, but I heard about race
R: It’s the same thing more or less. So do you know what ethnicity you belong to?
P: Yeah I’m Sikh. I’m three quarters Indian and one quarter white.
R: OK so what’s your mum and dad?
P: My mums half Indian and half white and my dads full Indian.
R: OK. Do you feel you are part of both cultures or identify more with one?
P: Both
R: Like you feel like you are white and Indian or white or Indian?
P: White and Indian.
R: OK. So in this conversation we are going to chat a bit about things like that. SO is your ethnicity important for you? Is the fact that you are mixed race important for you?
P: No not really
R: Do you ever feel confused about it?
P: No
R: So it is quite clear to you that you belong to both groups?
P: Yeah. Simple.
R: And how do you feel about it? Is it difficult sometimes?
P: No I just feels like a normal thing
R: Can you think of a time that it caused you some problems?
P: No never.
R: So earlier you said you are mixed race. When did you start thinking of yourself like that?
P: I don’t know. I’ve always thought that I was mixed race
R: Because you know sometimes when students become teenagers it’s a period when they start thinking about issues like that, like who they are and where they come from.
P: Oh yeah
R: So, is it something that now you are a teenager you think about more?
P: No not really. I mean [?]
R: Have you changed at all in how you saw yourself and how you see yourself now/
P: No not really
R: OK so there has not been an incident that made you feel more conscious, more aware that you belonged to a group?
P: No
R: How about your family? What do they think about the fact you are mixed race? You said you mum is mixed race as well?
P: Yeah
R: Right, so how is it there is is something easy being with family...
P: No not really, just like a normal life
R: And in the school is it ok?
P: Yeah
R: How are you doing with school? Do you enjoy school?
P: A bit of both actually. It is hard actually. With all the GCSE and coursework I get.
R: So how do you see yourself in the future?
P: You mean what job?
R: Aha
P: I want to be a policeman actually
R: Why do you want to be a policeman?
P: Help people, things like that…it’s what I’ve always wanted to do since I was little
R: Do you know what a policeman’s job is?
P: I’m going to find out.
R: So let’s go back to your mixed race. Is there something that you think that the school could do to make things easier for you, help you with your everyday life?
P: You mean with my lessons?
Participant 12

R: So what is your ethnic group? What groups would you say that you belong to?
P: I’m British White and Black Caribbean, but it’s British as well because my dad was born over here, but the rest of my family is Caribbean.
R: Okay, so do you normally describe yourself as belonging to both groups?
P: I’d just say that I’m dual heritage
R: Right, so you don’t think of yourself as being more one group than the other?
P: I find it lucky to be both. There are more cultures in my family though; it’s not just Black and White. On my dad’s side I’ve got Indian and Irish, and slightly Pakistan but not that much, and my mum’s side is from Sheffield
R: So have you always thought of yourself as being dual heritage, or do you remember a time or certain age where you started thinking more about it?
P: No, because my dad’s black and he says respect everyone no matter what, even if they’re the same colour as you but follow a different way. I still have to follow the same. But when I’m with the White side of my family, I do act different than the way I am when I’m with the Black side of my family
R: Really, in what way?
P: Like, when I’m around my mum’s side of the family, I’m more, I show more intelligence towards them, because I’m sort of...because they’re a more respectable family and I’ve got to show that, but with my dad’s side of the family, I do show respect as such, but I’m more free to do what I want to do, how I do things.
R: Oh, okay. So is your dual heritage important to you?
P: Well it doesn’t stop me from doing anything.
R: Do you ever feel confused because you belong to two groups?
P: No I feel comfortable with both really
R: Oh, that’s good. So you never wish you were just one group?
R: So do you actually feel that it’s a positive thing having a dual heritage? Do you think it’s maybe better than being just part of one group?
P: Yeah
R: In what way?
P: Well I feel that I’ve got more to learn about my culture, but like I haven’t got just one culture to learn, I’ve got more than one. So it’s like the advantage of me knowing more than another person, because I’ve got another background as well.

R: So do you ever feel like belonging to more than one group has ever caused you any problems? Like, do you ever feel like people are prejudiced or racist towards you?
P: People who think like that, I just have no time for.

R: Has there ever been any point where you felt like you had to choose one group over the other? Do you feel like you’ve had any pressure from, say, your mum’s side of the family or your dad’s side, that you should be more on the White side of the family or more on the Black side of the family?
P: When I’m with my family, when I’m with the White side of my family and someone from the White side of my family says something about a black person, I still think I’ve got no time from them, even though they are part of my family

R: Do you ever say anything, like that’s not right?
P: Yeah, I say what I feel. I am very opinionated.

R: So in general, do you feel that you get enough support from your family
P: Yeah
R: And from both sides of your family? Do you feel you are supported and that they help you when you need it?
P: Yeah
R: And what about school? How do you get on at school?
P: Good. I do really well at school.

R: So you don’t have problems with any of the teachers or anything like that?
P: Some teachers, but I do say what I feel, so it doesn’t really bother me about the teachers that much.

R: So do you think there’s anything your school or the family could do to make your life easier?
P: I think it’s too easy at the moment

R: What, you think school’s too easy?
P: No, just in general, lifestyle and that. It’s just easy; it’s just your social life that you have to look out for, and at school.

R: What do you mean?
P: Well you get like…what’s the word…say if you hang around with Black people at a certain time, then you hang around with Indians at a certain time, people sort of like, say, what are you doing that for? Or…it’s like, people say things in your social life about who you socialize with. And they generally don’t mean it in a way, but they bring it across sometimes as the wrong ideas.

R: What, so you mean people say “You shouldn’t be hanging around with them”?
P: Yeah, it’s like that, but those things just make you think more about…yeah, they might be different, but they also know things I don’t know, so I can teach them, and they can teach me. It’s not always about being the same. So if someone tells you not to hang around with them, it’ll probably just make you more likely to.

R: So do you worry that your ethnic group might have a negative effect on you in the future?
Do you worry about getting a job, or marriage; do you think your family would be bothered if you married someone from a different ethnic group? Do you worry about those sorts of things?
P: My family accept me for who I want to be, and who I want to marry, because that’s my choice. They might be funny about something about them, but not about their ethnicity.
R: So I’m going to now ask you a couple of questions about being both British and mixed race. Do you think it’s easy to be British and then to also be a member of a minority group? Do you think that’s difficult or that you ever have any kind of conflicts?
P: No, not really
R: And do you think it’s important to do things associated with the groups you belong to? So when you’re with the White side or Black side of the family, do you do things that are different?
P: Different, yeah. That’s just the way…because my dad’s grown up in a way that’s different to my mum…because my mum and dad have strict rules on certain things, like my dad has strict rules on my behaviour and my respect towards people. My mum does have those, but my dad’s more uptight about it, he’s like “That’s how it’s got to be”.
R: So finally, I’m going to ask you a few questions about your friends at school and stuff. Do you have lots of friends at school? Do you feel quite settled at school here?
P: Yeah
R: And what ethnic group are most of your friends?
P: They’re a complete mix.
R: And when you look around the school, do you think people tend to split into groups
P: No, because this is a really multicultural school. You can’t….if you were in a class, and you sit next to someone who is White, or whatever…well, you just don’t seem different in this school, not really, just because there’s so many different cultures
R: So is there anything that could be done in school to make things easier for you or better for you in any way?
P: Yeah, there’s a black history month at school but I don’t think there’s enough done about it. Because you know about it, but then they have things like Eid parties, but we don’t have any of those varieties at school.
R: So do you have Eid parties at school?
P: Yeah, but for Black history, we just have an assembly on it, and that’s the end of it really.
R: So you feel like you’d prefer there to be more lessons about your background and heritage then?
P: Yeah, because there’s not much on it. In black history month, they do teach us a bit more about it in RS, about Martin Luther King and that, but we don’t get extra stuff on it, it’s just a general part of RS.
R: And do you think there should be stuff on the history of other groups, like White history and Asian history?
P: Yeah, so I don’t just know my own history, but I know everyone else’s.
R: Finally, what do you see yourself doing in the future? What job do you want to do?
P: I want to be a midwife
R: And are you planning on staying at school until you are 18?
P: No, I’m going to go to college?
R: And then
P: And then I’m going to go to University
R: Right, thanks, that’s great.
Participant 13

R: So you remember doing the questionnaire yesterday and this is a follow on from that really. Alright so this is just to get your opinion on, we’re looking at race and ethnicity and young peoples views and the experiences really, the effect it has on your daily life whether it’s positive or negative. Is that alright?
P: OK.
R: So I’m just going to start with your background to give us an idea of where you are? What do you consider your ethnic group to be?
P: Mixed over. Its like different groups. We don’t stand as one. So there’s a mixture of us. We bond.
R: What about your parents? Where are your parents from?
P: My dads Indian and my mums white.
R: And how’s that?
P: Alright
R: OK?
R: Do you use the dual heritage label or is there another way that you class yourself?
P: I don’t class myself as anything really
R: You just class yourself as...
P: ...myself.
R: Yeah?
P: Yeah
R: OK. When you get to your age you do start thinking about your background and things like that. Do you ever think about things like that?
P: Sometimes like when my dads family go to India. I sometimes want to go with them to see the cousins. Now and again not all the time
R: Is your ethnic group important to you?
P: No not really.
R: Do you ever feel confused about the ethnic group you belong to?
P: No.
R: If you had to identify yourself how would you identify yourself?
P: I don’t know because being mixed race its kind of hard. I classify myself as white more than Indian.
R: Is there any particular reason for that?
P: Because no one knows I’m half caste. So I just class myself as white. When they see me with my dad they go oh you’re half caste.
R: Do you think it’s because people consider you to be more white, it’s because they look at you…?
P: No they don’t mind. Some of my friends know and they just act normal around me.
R: Do you ever with you were one ethnicity rather than both?
P: Sometimes I wish I was just white. Because I’ve been Asian you have to follow loads of other rules and that.
R: Is there any other situations when sometimes you think...
P: Yeah because Asian families are more stricter
R: Do you find that at home?
P: No when I go down to my other cousins and that.
R: We are also looking at the development of your identity. About whether you’ve changed in how you look at yourself in terms of ethnic group. Has anything ever made you think or made you stop and think about your ethnic group?
P: No not really.
R: Being from a dual heritage background and your parents being from different ethnic groups did that cause you any problems when you were little?
P: It caused my little brother problems before he moved round here. At his primary school he got picked on for being mixed race.
R: And was there anything that you experienced?
P: No I was fine.
R: And was that dealt with?
P: Yes
R: Has something ever happened to you that made you feel that your ethnic group, white or your ethnic group is important to you?
P: No
R: Can you tell me about what good things there is in your background and your ethnicity?
P: I’ve got a bigger family. My mum side we’ve only got one cousin because they’re a smaller family but on my dads side I’ve got loads of cousins, mostly my age, and i get to bond with them and I’m not the only girl.
R: Do you spend time with your extended family?
P: Yeah. Because we’ve moved round by them now so we see them more.
R: OK That’s good. Have you ever been a time when you felt you had to choose between one ethnic group or another?
P: No.
R: There’s been no situations where you’ve felt you’ve had to pick?
P: No. If I go temple its only if someone’s been born or a wedding or anniversary or something like that.
R: Do you think its ok to have more than one ethnic identity?
P: Yeah. Because you get to learn other culture and what they do. It’s important. I like it.
R: Good.
R: What I am now looking at the support you get form your family and from school really. What kind of support do you get from your family?
P: To do with what?
R: To do with anything really. Who in your family supports you in the things you do.
P: More my mum because I don’t really see my dad much. He works away a lot so my mum supports me.
R: Is there anything at school? How does school support you?
P: They’re alright. They do support me. Last year when i got beaten up they let me have time off school. They got the police involved and everything so they’re really behind me.
R: And, you don’t have to answer this but was this assault based on anything in particular?
P: I don’t know. I never got to the bottom of why it happened.
R: Are there any problems that you face specifically because you are dual heritage? Like compared to anybody else, because you’ve got 2 backgrounds, do you think there are any problems you face that no one else faces?
P: Yeah sometimes..when..like...some of my family don’t like it. Because of my mum being white they don’t like it so they don’t talk to us, don’t keep in contact with us but most of them are alright with us.
R: What so you think can be done to make those kind of situations better? Is there anything..
P: They can actually give her a chance. Because they avoid us and don’t want to know us. They still see me and my brother but not my mum.

R: Does your dad take you to visit?

P: Yeah

R: OK. Your mum doesn’t go?

P: My mum doesn’t want to go. She doesn’t want to cause any aggro.

R: Do you think you’ve ever experienced prejudice because of your background?

P: No

R: No?

R: Do you have a sense of belonging? I mean which group do you feel that you belong to. I mean you’ve already identified yourself as being white so do you feel part of the white and group and part of...

P: Both really because like I said I go to temple with families and that and I go to church for christenings and that

R: Do you think in the future you might have some problems because of your ethnicity?

P: No

R: And do you think you get treated different because of your ethnic background

P: No I get treated both

R: Do you think it’s easy being dual heritage, or difficult?

P: It’s alright. It don’t bother me being mixed race it’s kind of fun because you get to bond with different people.

R: When you think about your friends, who to you tend to associate with, which young people? Where are your friends from?

P: Mostly white (heheh)

R: And those are the ones you tend to hang about with?

P: Yeah

R: Are there any questions you’d like to ask us about the questionnaire you did yesterday or the questions today?

P: No.

Participant 14

R: What we are looking at today we are trying to get more opinions about ethnicity and how it affects you in your daily life, whether it does or doesn’t that’s down to you to be telling me.

P: What I am going to start off with is what is your ethnic group, or what do you consider your ethnic group?

R: Mixed because my dad is half Jamaican and half Arab and my mum is fully white so I’m a quarter Jamaican, a quarter Arab and half white.

P: So what ethnic group do you think you belong to?

R: Just...me

P: Is there anything, you just said you come form lots of different backgrounds, is there one of those?

R: One...Jamaican side because they have the black festivals and I get invited to them with my dad and my granddad.

P: So you feel that you identify with that part. Is that all the time that you feel that you identify with that?

R: It’s either Jamaican or white because Arab was never really brought up in me
P: So you identify more with you afro-Caribbean part and your white part than you do with your Arab part.

R: Do you ever wish that you were just one ethnicity in particular?

P: No I like being mixed because if people accuse you of being racist they can’t because your race as well.

R: When did you start thinking about your background and your identity and when did you start thinking about the fact that you are dual heritage. Was there any particular incident or time that you began thinking about your background?

P: In primary school because I was darker than like some plain white people and my dad was like coloured and my mums white and I just wandered about where I’m from, like my Nan was born in Saudi Arabia and my granddad in Jamaica, and my dad was brought up in Jamaica for a bit and then came over here and then I was born

R: Even when you were little did you ask questions or anything like that or did anyone talk to you about your background.

P: No...

R: How about since you’ve been a bit older

P: I’ve chatted to my granddad and my Nan and my dad about it a bit

R: About where they’ve come from?

P: Yeah

R: Do you think that being dual heritage has caused you any problems when you were little?

P: No

R: Has it caused you any problems at secondary school do you think?

P: No

R: So what good things are there about being dual heritage?

P: You get involved in a lot of things like I told you about afro-Caribbean parties and festival and I get to go to stuff like that

R: And when you go to them you feel included?

P: Yeah

R: Have you ever had to choose between your backgrounds?

P: No apart from when there’s fights because usually there’s fights, because usually there’s fights but usually it’s the Muslims and the Indians against each other and the Indians will be with the black and the whites and it’s like racist fights but I never get involved I just watched.

R: So that’s the only time when you feel you have to choose a particular group?

P: Well I got asked what’s my group

R: So in those situations which group do you feel you identify with the most?

P: White and black

R: Do you think its ok to have more than one ethnicity?

P: Yeah it’s cool.

R: Now we’ll look at the support you get form your family and school really. Whether your family talks about ethnicity and background at home and support you in your identity and who you are.

P: Not really they don’t chat about it loads

R: Because it’s not something you talk about?

P: It’s something we’ve talked about and we know about and we’re good.

R: OK how about school? What does school do to support you in your identity?

P: Just when I ask questions...

R: Is there anything you’d like the school to provide, like information about your background?
P: Not really.

R: Do you think there’s been any particular problems because of your ethnic group?
P: No

R: Have you ever experienced any kind of prejudice or racism?
P: Just in primary school when someone called me coco pops.
R: And how was that dealt with?
P: I told the teacher, nothing happened, so I had a fight with him
R: And how did that make you feel when you were little?
P: After my fight with him
R: Well no about being called a name
P: I just told him to f off.
R: OK.
R: Do you think in the future you’ll have any problems because of your background, like whether you’ll have difficulty getting a job?
P: I don’t know.
R: You don’t know, you don’t see it as an issue?
P: Not really
R: Do you think people treat you differently because of your ethnicity or do they treat you the same as everyone else?
P: The same
R: Do you think its easy being from different backgrounds or difficult
P: Easy
R: What makes it easy?
P: Nothing makes it difficult
R: Do you think it’s important to do things that from both of your backgrounds, like you said is it important to go to the black festivals and celebrate predominantly white events?
P: Yeah
R: When you think about your friends what background is your friends?
P: White and afro-Caribbean and most of my friends are Asian and that
R: And you fit in well with each other
P: Yeah
R: And is race and identity an issue there?
P: No.