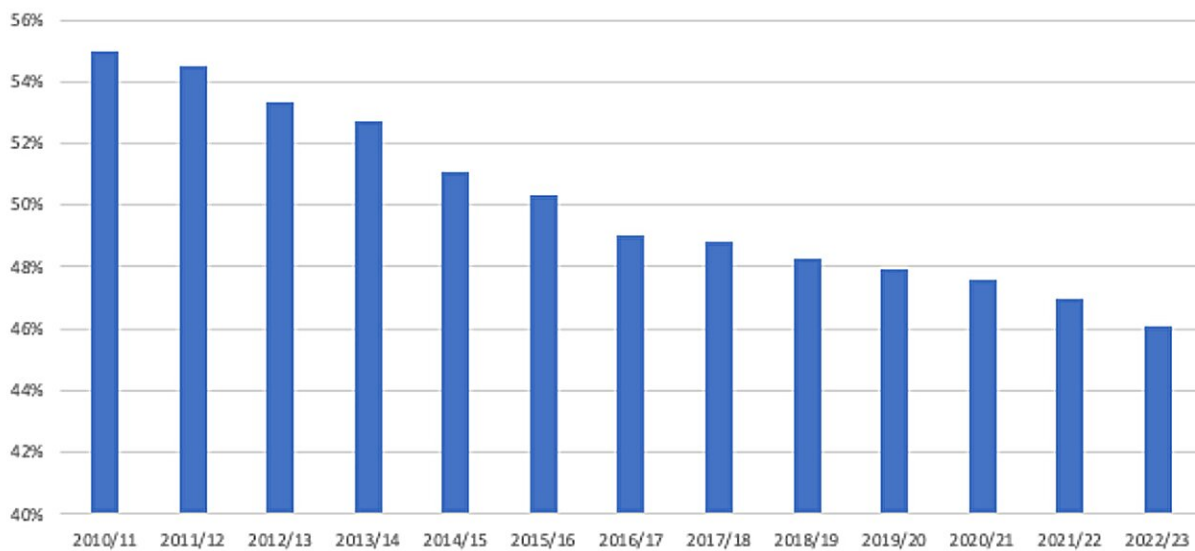


No ethnic minority teachers in more than half of England's primary schools, new data shows

May 10 2024



Proportion of schools in England without a classroom teacher from an ethnic minority background between 2010 and 2022. Credit: *SSRN Electronic Journal* (2024). DOI: 10.2139/ssrn.4808806

New research from the University of Warwick [posted](#) to the preprint *SSRN Electronic Journal* has laid bare the scale of the diversity crisis in schools, with more than half (55%) of primary schools having no ethnic minority teachers.

This number has barely changed in years, with this failure to make progress feeding into wider recruitment and retention issues for teachers.

The research also found that nearly a third (30%) of [primary schools](#) had no male teachers, with almost a quarter (23%) of schools in England having only white female teachers.

Assistant Professor Joshua Fullard of Warwick Business [school](#), who tracks this data annually, said this year's results showed things are not getting better. "Diversity in the classroom matters. We know [ethnic minority students](#) and young boys are missing out by not having teachers that represent them. This will worsen existing gaps in attainment and inequality in adulthood."

"This data shows the highly limited progress being made on diversity in the classroom, with slow progress in achieving a representative pool of teachers. With recent research showing 3 in 10 teachers would be better off financially if they quit, it's hardly surprising the pool of potential teachers is shrinking every year."

Existing research has shown that children perform best educationally if they are taught by a diverse mix of teachers, with research showing that ethnic minority students did better academically with a teacher of the same race. The effect was particularly pronounced on lower performing students.

Recent statistics have shown the Government failing to hit targets for the number of teachers in training, with record numbers of educators quitting in 2023.

The research shows that the number of schools with no male teacher has risen over the last two years. It also found that the lack of ethnic and gender diversity is even worse in senior roles.

Results also showed 46% percent of schools did not have a male on the senior leadership team, while 88% do not have a senior leader from an ethnic minority background.

Men are less likely to apply to [teacher training](#) (roughly 30% of applicants are male) and are less likely to be placed into a teacher training program (58% vs. 65%).

Male teachers are also slightly more likely to leave the profession. Consequently, the proportion of [teachers](#) who are male remains at a record low (24%).

There are four Local Authorities where over half of the primary schools do not have a male teacher at all (West Berkshire, Northumberland, Cumbria and Windsor and Maidenhead).

Likewise, there are six Local Authorities where more than 80% of schools do not have a teacher from an ethnic minority background (County Durham, Cumbria, Isles of Scilly, North Yorkshire, Shropshire and York).

More information: Joshua Fullard, Teacher Gender Diversity in England 2010-2023, *SSRN Electronic Journal* (2024). [DOI: 10.2139/ssrn.4808806](#)

Provided by University of Warwick

Citation: No ethnic minority teachers in more than half of England's primary schools, new data shows (2024, May 10) retrieved 22 July 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2024-05-ethnic-minority-teachers-england-primary.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.