

# Awards celebrate schools' advances in race equality

● City sets the standard when it comes to equality

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PUPILS AND staff from 24 city schools and children's centres have been recognised for their commitment to race equality.

They have each been awarded the Stephen Lawrence Education Standard, which was presented to them at an event held at Leeds Civic Hall on Monday.

The standard was developed in partnership between Leeds City Council and black and minority community representatives, in response to the racist murder of British schoolboy Stephen Lawrence in 1993.

The award was the first of its kind in the country, and in 2003 a 'Standard' was launched and



**WINNERS:** Meanwood Children's Centre won bronze at the Stephen Lawrence Awards. From left Debbie Schofield, assistant manager, mums, Catherine Bekley-Mills, Diana Davis, Sonja Woodcock, Ida Kemunto, Kesi Herbert, and manager Lucy Davies. •PICTURE: STEVE RIDING

**"In Leeds we have a proud tradition of celebrating cultural diversity."**

awarded to schools, children's centres and colleges.

To date around 77 per cent of Leeds' schools have achieved at least a level 1 award, with others working towards it.

Among the winners this year was Meanwood children's centre - the first children's centre to achieve level 3 of the standard for completing some excellent work with children and parents.

Councillor Jane Dowson, deputy executive member responsible for children's services, said: "In Leeds we have a proud tradition of celebrating cultural diversity and the Stephen Lawrence Education Standard is an



**TRAGEDY:** Stephen Lawrence, who was killed in a racist attack

excellent way to broaden young people's horizons and embed a culture of equality in our schools and communities.

"Our aim to be a child friendly city can only be achieved if our young people understand the importance of race equality, not only in schools, but in all walks

of life. The standard encourages our children and young people to treat everybody equally regardless of their race, beliefs or religion."

In 2010 the awards programme was launched nationally and became available to schools and learning settings across the

country. The programme aims to provide a powerful framework for schools to work in partnership to enrich and improve the learning experience of children, young people and adults.

For the first time, this year a number of schools from other towns and cities also attended the ceremony, they were: St Aloysius Roman Catholic Infant, in Camden; Swanland Primary, in East Riding; and Horton Grange Primary, in Bradford.

Schools and educational centres that achieved one of the three levels of the standard, and those whose commitment to the standard has been revalidated, were presented with a framed certificate of endorsement at the ceremony held in the Civic Hall banqueting suite on Monday.

● See page 23 for the race relations message 'big picture'.

## STEPHEN'S LEGACY

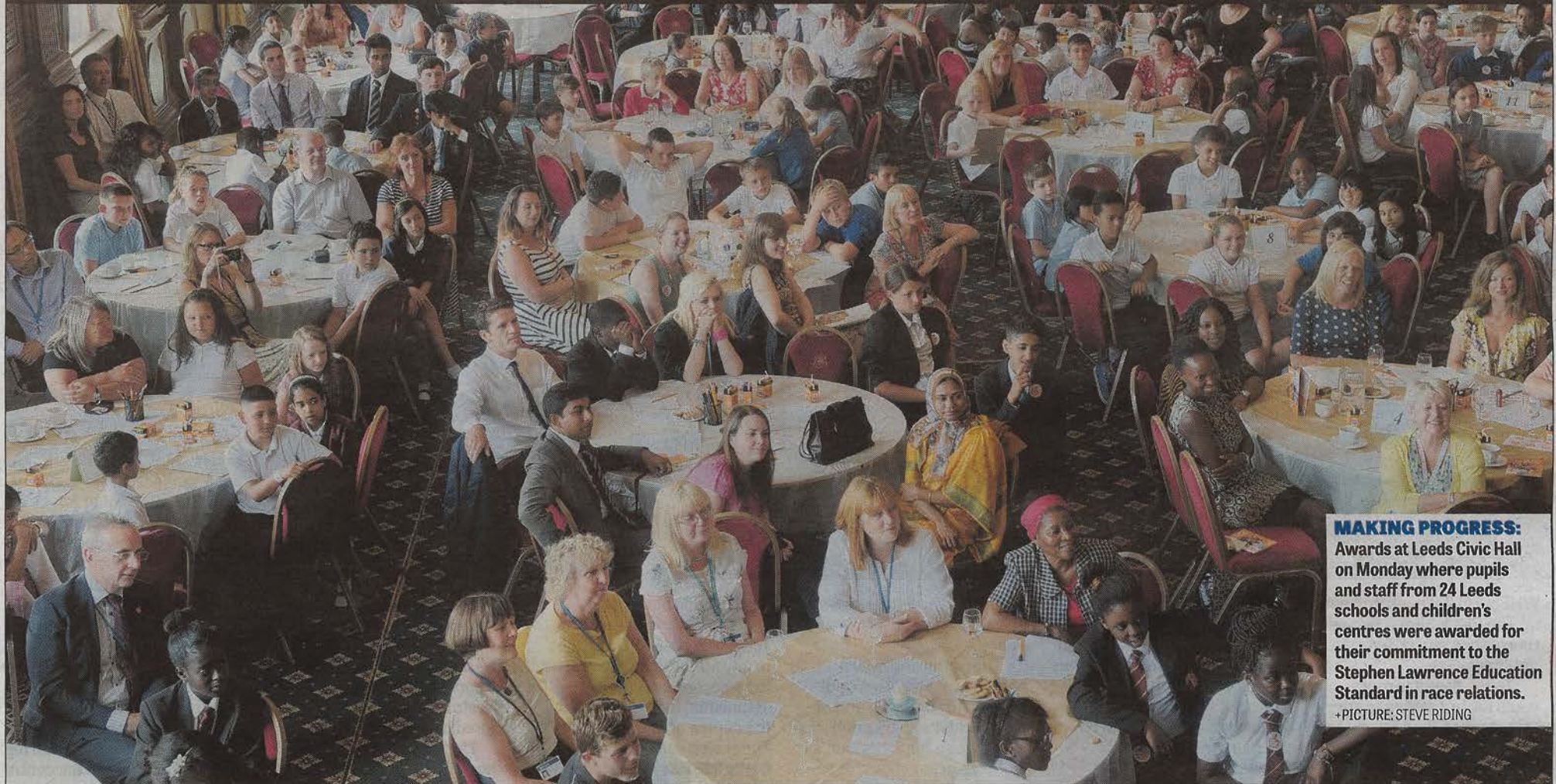
- Sixth form student Stephen Lawrence, 18, was killed in a racist attack while he waited at a bus stop in Eltham, south London, in 1993.
- The murder, its investigation, and the public scrutiny that followed - thanks to the persistent struggle of Stephen's parents Neville and Doreen Lawrence - exposed a police culture of institutional racism.
- The Stephen Lawrence Education Standard was created by Leeds City Council in conjunction with black and minority groups to celebrate ethnic diversity and improve race relations.

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## THE BIG PICTURE: Youngsters spreading the race relations message



**MAKING PROGRESS:** Awards at Leeds Civic Hall on Monday where pupils and staff from 24 Leeds schools and children's centres were awarded for their commitment to the Stephen Lawrence Education Standard in race relations.

-PICTURE: STEVE RIDING

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